



## **Office of the Mayor**

**Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: November 27, 2012

CONTACT: Alexander Marion

Press Secretary (315) 448-8044

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# **MAYOR STEPHANIE A. MINER TO CELEBRATE 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ALBANIAN INDEPENDENCE**

*Mayor Miner Will Issue Proclamation Declaring Wednesday  
Albanian Independence Day in the City of Syracuse*

*Miner: Proud to Recognize Albanian Independence Day,  
Contributions of Albanian-Americans to City of Syracuse*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner will raise the flag of the Republic of Albania on Wednesday, November 28, 2012 at 10:00 AM on the front steps of City Hall in commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Albania’s independence from the Ottoman Empire. Joining the Mayor at the flag raising will be members of the local Albanian community.

“It is always an honor to recognize the diverse constituencies which make up the fabric of our community,” said Mayor Stephanie A. Miner. “I am proud to recognize Albanian Independence and the significant contributions Albanian-Americans have made to the City of Syracuse.”

“On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1912 Albania declared independence from the Ottoman Empire, ending a 500 year long occupation,” said Rezar Gera, a local Albanian community activist. “As people gathered in 1912 from every corner of the country to raise the Albanian Flag in the city of Vlora and as they are gathering this very same day in Albania, Kosovo and elsewhere, we are proudly gathered here to commemorate the most significant day of Albania’s history.”

On November 28, 1912, Ismail Qemali raised the Albanian flag in the port city of Vlore, Albania, proclaiming independence after 500 years of Ottoman rule. Today, the Republic of Albania is home to 2.8 million people. After the successful transition from socialism to a free

233 EAST WASHINGTON STREET \* SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13202

315-448-8005 | [www.syracuse.ny.us](http://www.syracuse.ny.us)

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market system, Albania has one of Southeast Europe's fastest growing economies. Ethnic Albanians can be found in the Republic of Albania as well as the Republic of Kosovo, which is recognized by the United States and 94 other United Nations member states.

The growing Syracuse community of Albanians comes from both the Republic of Albania and Kosovo.

At the flag raising ceremony, Mayor Miner will issue a proclamation declaring Wednesday the Albanian Independence Day in the City of Syracuse.

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