



Office of the Mayor

Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 25, 2013

CONTACT: Alexander Marion

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MAYOR MINER ANNOUNCES HEALTHCARE SAVINGS FOR CITY

*Through Negotiations with Hospitals, City to Receive \$600,000
Savings on Hospital Care*

*Miner: This is Another Way for Syracuse's Nonprofits to Help
Support Vital City Services*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie Miner announced today the City of Syracuse has secured over \$600,000 in projected savings resulting from negotiations with area hospitals. The negotiations, done in collaboration with a one year extension of the city's contract with the POMCO Group, are new service rates for hospital care.

"I am very pleased that two of our leading hospitals, Crouse and University, have demonstrated their willingness to be strong community partners during challenging fiscal times. In addition to our service agreements with SU and Crouse, this is another way we are working with our large non-profit tax exempt institutions in Syracuse to identify new ways for them to help us fund vital services," said Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner. "The old model for financing New York's cities needs to change and this is one creative way to start doing just that. Additionally, I want to thank the POMCO Group, the City's healthcare provider, for helping to secure these new decreased rates."

In light of the City's continued fiscal crisis, Miner turned to some of Syracuse's not-for-profit health care organizations in her quest to find cost-saving opportunities. Miner's goal was to identify ways to reduce the service expenses the City incurs by supporting these tax-exempt organizations. Relying upon the City's health care partners—POMCO Group, the health plan's benefits administrator, Crouse Hospital and, Upstate University Hospital—the Mayor

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championed a collaborative effort to secure cost reductions for City employees who access those hospitals.

“Our role in this process has simply been to identify each and every avenue available to the City in its efforts to reduce health care costs,” stated POMCO Group President and Chief Executive Officer Robert W. Pomfrey. “Challenging times require additional efforts from all parties involved, and as part of our partnership with the City, we gladly encouraged the utilization of collective efforts to achieve this shared goal.”

The \$600,000 savings were due to a collaborative effort between POMCO Group and the City’s two largest hospitals, Crouse and Upstate University. POMCO Group assisted the City in developing a unique agreement that will allow City employees to access health care from the hospitals at a reduced cost.

“As a major city employer – as well as a regional economic and healthcare anchor – Crouse Hospital has a stake in supporting the City of Syracuse as it works to develop reasonable solutions to address its current fiscal challenges. Our partnership with the city to ensure high-quality, cost-effective healthcare for its employees is reflective of this effort,” said Crouse CEO Paul Kronenberg, MD.

“We are delighted that we were able to find an avenue to help take a significant cost off the City’s plate,” said John B. McCabe, MD, Senior Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of University Hospital. “We are proud to be the Central New York Region’s only Academic Medical Center and only Level One trauma Center and now we can be a health care destination of choice for the City employees, families and retirees. Great cities need great partners and this holds the promise of a great partnership for years to come.”

This is not the first agreement Mayor Miner has made with local nonprofits. In 2011, Mayor Miner secured a five service agreement with Syracuse University making \$500,000 payments. Earlier this year, Crouse Hospital entered into a four year, \$50,000 annual service agreement with the city.

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