

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA Office of the Country Comptroller

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## ONONDAGA COUNTY COMPTROLLER ANNOUNCES CSI ONONDAGA

(Consolidation, Shared services & Integration)

County Executive supports initiatives presented by Comptroller in her tentative budget.

Onondaga County Executive Joanne Mahoney presented her tentative budget to the Onondaga County Legislature today. Included in the budget was a funded position in the Onondaga County Comptroller's Office for an auditor whose sole function will be to work on consolidation, shared services and integration of Onondaga County municipalities and quasi-governmental agencies.

Robert E. Antonacci II, CPA, Onondaga County Comptroller, stated, "Thank you to the County Executive for her leadership and support in bringing to the forefront the heavy cost of our property taxes in Onondaga County. The County Executive has consistently identified the problems our taxpayers face here in Onondaga County and we are excited to be part of the solution." Antonacci further added, "CSI Onondaga borrows its acronym from the popular crime drama but is a serious effort to help all stakeholders by giving them an option to use the resources of the Onondaga County Comptroller to understand and implement consolidation, shared services and integration ideas that will ultimately save the taxpayers money. We look forward to our presentation to the Onondaga County Legislature and believe this initiative will be an option for those taxpayers concerned with the ever-increasing cost of property taxes."

Some of the ideas that will be within the purview of CSI Onondaga are purchasing, accounting and personnel centralization, sharing of municipal legal services, real property tax collection and assessment, public safety and judicial services, and delivery of water.

Antonacci closed with further kudos to Mahoney. "The County Executive has viewed total government spending in our County as part of a joint balance sheet, and we concur. It will be the goal of our 'tax' force to identify with one click of a button the actual cost of the total property tax bill to any one individual taxpayer. It is our goal that from year to year taxpayers will be able to know for certainty if the cost of government has gone up. The goal will be to present the community 'One Bill' which we hope will lead to transparency and accountability for all levels of government."

For further information please contact Robert E. Antonacci at 435-2130.