

# City of Newburgh

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## Press Release

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*For immediate release*

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### Acting City Manager Dwight H. Douglas To Resign as of August 5

Acting City Manager Dwight H. Douglas announced his resignation to his Department Heads in a meeting today (July 20). He has served since March, and his last day will be August 5.

Mr. Douglas said the decision was precipitated by “personal criticism” he received at the July 13 Council meeting. “While this criticism was unwarranted and unhelpful, the main reason is a lack of unity on the part of the Council as we come into a very, very difficult budget process where layoffs and other service cuts will be needed. A unified leadership is vital to dealing with these tough economic times.”

He continued, “In addition to the economy, the City of Newburgh is in a difficult position in terms of distressed neighborhoods and public safety. We have tremendous potential here, with commanding Hudson River views, amazing architecture, two colleges and a major hospital as anchoring institutions, and easy access to major routes and the airport. But, in order to realize this potential, and to be positioned for the economic upturn, there is a need for a “team” to form at the highest City government level, and all must be working toward the same goals. I sincerely hope that such a team can come into being in the near future.”

The remainder of his tenure as Acting City Manager will be focused on the upcoming property sale, which will include sealed bids and auction, and the 2010 budget. He plans to work with the Comptroller to compile the budgets presented by Department Heads, which, he said were “reasonable,” along with the available resources, to reveal the extent of the budget gap. This information will be presented to Council, along with a series of options for revenue enhancement and expense reduction.

Mr. Douglas praised his department heads for their abilities, their professionalism, and their obvious care for the community. “You have all been great,” he said. “The City of Newburgh is lucky to have you.”