



CITY OF UTICA

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MAYOR

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Mayor Palmieri Statement on Local Law #3 of 2017

From the beginning of this process, I stated publically I would only support changes to the City Charter regarding eligibility to run for office if terms limits were preserved and any proposed changes were equal among all elected offices in the City.

Local Law #3 of 2017 does preserve term limits and maintain equality in the maximum years of consecutive service for all elected City offices, changing it from eight to twelve years.

If you look at the federal government (with the exception of President of the United States), there are no term limits for federal representatives.

At the State level, there are no term limits for any elected office (Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, Legislature).

At the County level, there are no term limits for any elected office (County Executive, District Attorney, Sheriff, Comptroller, County Clerk, Legislature).

Even in other communities in our region such as the City of Rome, there are no term limits for any elected office.

Utica is unique and more the exception than the norm in having term limits.

There are many factors to consider when examining this issue. Local Law #3 was brought before the Common Council after approximately 1,200 signatures were gathered in support of this change. The Council then voted by majority to approve the law.

There have been several reports and claims the process was illegal or improper. In light of these assertions, I solicited the legal guidance from the City's Corporation Counsel and the Common Council's Attorney as I would not support any legislation if the process was deemed illegal or improper.

After a thorough review of the facts and case law, it has been unequivocally determined the law was followed at every stage of this process. I've included a memorandum from the City's Corporation Counsel further detailing this point.

I've met and spoke with countless residents over the past several weeks, both who support and oppose this local law.

When reviewing the facts, and not the rhetoric, Local Law #3 preserves term limits, is equal for all City Office's and the process was legal and proper. For these reasons, this legislation is met with my approval.

Furthermore, there has been a lot of positive changes in this community in recent years as a result of everyone in City government working together. Utica is on the verge of several transformational projects, and I believe our residents should at least have the choice in keeping this team together.

At the end of the day, term limits will still be preserved and the people will decide who to elect as their representatives.