



# CITY OF UTICA

Utica Urban Renewal Agency  
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**ROBERT M. PALMIERI**  
MAYOR

**BRIAN THOMAS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## MEMORANDUM

March 12, 2015

**TO:** New York State Authorities Budget Office

**FROM:** Executive Director

**RE:** Utica Urban Renewal Agency

### **New York State Local Public Authority Mission Statement and Measurement Report**

**Local Public Authority Name: Utica Urban Renewal Agency**

**Fiscal Year: April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015**

**Enabling Legislation: General Municipal Law Article 15-B § 616. Utica Urban Renewal Agency**

§ 616. Utica urban renewal agency. An urban renewal agency, to be known as the Utica urban renewal agency, is hereby established for the accomplishment of any or all of the purposes specified in articles fifteen and fifteen-A of the chapter and in accordance with article eighteen of the constitution of the state of New York. It shall constitute a body, corporate and politic, be perpetual in duration and consist of seven members, including the mayor, who shall be chairman, the city engineer, the chairman of the city planning board, all of whose terms shall expire with the term of the mayor, two citizen electors, appointed by and to serve at the pleasure of the mayor and two members of the common council, appointed by the council, who shall not be of the same political party and each of whom shall serve until the expiration of his term of office as councilman. The treasurer of the agency shall be the comptroller who shall not be a member of the agency. It shall have the powers and duties now or hereafter covered by article fifteen-A of this chapter upon municipal renewal agencies. It shall be organized in the manner prescribed by and be subject to the provisions of article fifteen-A of this chapter and the agency, its members, officers and employees and its operations and activities shall in all respects be covered by the provisions of such article.

**Mission Statement:** The Agency, pursuant to the provisions of Section 533 of the General Municipal law of the State of New York, is a corporate governmental agency constituting a public benefit corporation and shall be perpetual in duration. The Utica Urban Renewal Agency was created by the enactment by the New York State Legislature on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 1965 of Chapter 433 of the Laws of the State of New York of 1965, Section 616, Article 1B of the New York State General Municipal Law.

The Utica Urban Renewal Agency has three main objectives:

- To facilitate the disposal of tax-foreclosed properties in the City of Utica by putting said property back on the City tax rolls and creating the opportunity to rebuild its neighborhoods.
- To foster private investment in neighborhoods for commercial and residential uses through selective acquisition and sale of property
- To proactively participate in public redevelopment projects through land banking of strategic parcels of land

**2014-2015 Performance Goals:**

- To aid in neighborhood preservation while increasing the city's tax base;
- To encourage private development within the city;
- To provide affordable housing and promote homeownership;
- To assist in the development of housing projects
- To reduce the existence of abandoned and dilapidated properties within the city thus deterring vandalism, arson and other public safety burdens;
- To minimize the inventory of city owned parcels in turn reducing the utilization of city resources relating to the maintenance and upkeep of these properties;
- To revitalize and rejuvenate our community as a whole;
- To improve the quality of life in the City of Utica; and
- To facilitate in the Utica Master Plan.

**Objectives:**

- Offer affordable and competitive minimum bids for city owned residential, commercial and vacant properties to promote heightened interest within the City of Utica and surrounding areas.
- Evaluate redevelopment proposals on a case by case basis to ensure that each specific project will serve to better the community.
- Distinguish eligible and qualified developers by working closely with the City of Utica's Comptroller's Office and Codes Department to review the tax standing and codes history of all potential buyers.
- Review and determine prospective developer's financial reach and ability to successfully complete proposed projects.
- Working in partnership with the City of Utica's Building Department to assure the necessary building permits are obtained as well as any and all approvals by the City's Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board and Scenic and Historic Commission are received.
- Schedule inspections with Developers one year following the sale of every property to confirm they are in compliance with Board approved redevelopment proposals.
- The issuance of certificates of completion upon successful project outcomes.

**Authority Stakeholder(s):** City of Utica, New York

**Authority Beneficiaries:** City of Utica residents

**Authority Customers:** All eligible business and residential entities

**Authority self-evaluation of prior year performance:** To be provided by March 31, 2015 and related to 2014 performance.

**Governance Certification:**

1. Have the board members acknowledged that they have read and understand the mission of the public authority? Board of Directors Response: **Yes**
2. Who has the power to appoint management of the public authority? Board of Directors Response: **Mayor of the City of Utica**
3. If the Board appoints management, do you have a policy you follow when appointing the management of the public authority. Board of Directors Response: **N/A**
4. Briefly describe the role of the Board and the role of management in the implementation of the mission.

Board of Directors Response: **The role of the Board regarding the implementation of the public authority's mission is to provide strategic input, guidance, oversight, mission authorization, policy setting and validation of the authority's mission, measurements and results. The role of management is to collaborate with the board in strategy development / strategy authorization and to implement established programs, processes, activities and policies to achieve the public authority's mission**

5. Has the Board acknowledged that they have read and understood the response to each of these questions? Board of Directors Response: **Yes**