

A REQUEST FOR SUNY IMPACT AID

We are requesting \$250,000 of SUNY Impact Aid for the Village of Brockport, NY, home of SUNY Brockport. The funding is greatly needed for public safety -- policing and code enforcement. In 2018, with the support of Senator Robert Ort, Assemblyman Steve Hawley, and other state legislators along with SUNY Brockport President Heidi Macpherson, the Village of Brockport received \$210,000 in SUNY Impact Aid, for one year. Only two SUNY municipalities (Oswego and New Paltz) currently receive this funding.

In 2023, SUNY Brockport enrollment (6,934) showed the largest percent increase in the SUNY system. First-time undergraduate college enrollment was up the highest percentage for any of New York State's comprehensive colleges and universities this year.

With a population of 7,061, Brockport is the largest of the 10 Monroe County Villages. Our median household income is below that of the County. 65% of the value of our property is tax exempt due primarily to SUNY Brockport which lies within the Village. In 2023, for the first time, we were forced to override the NYS 2% tax cap to meet our budgetary needs and we will have to do so again in 2024.

Brockport knows how important the community in which the University is embedded is to prospective students and their parents. We have a model relationship with SUNY Brockport. In 2014, we formed a Town/Gown committee whose several subcommittees meet regularly; the current Mayor is an emerita of the University and the University has proposed her appointment to the College Council. The Mayor and University President regularly communicate, sharing ideas and discussing mutual concerns.

The **Brockport Police Department (BPD)** is proudly committed to community policing. Officers "walk" downtown streets, conduct bike patrols, perform compliance checks at local bars. At closing time they escort student bar patrons towards home safely, keeping conflicts and noise levels down. This is in addition to responding to record levels of mental health and domestic incidents village-wide. This fall, BPD rescued 3 individuals from drowning in the Erie Canal, made significant drug arrests, and were first responders to administer Narcan in numerous crisis situations. Main Street safety is student safety.

A weekend patrol report issued during the academic year informs the Village Board about late-night activities and police response. Proactive efforts and fast response times have made a notable difference in the quality of life in the Village.

Our Codes office plays a critical role in our Village/University setting. 52% of our housing stock is rental housing, and 60% of that is student off campus rentals. Code enforcement is necessary to ensure fire safety, general living conditions, property maintenance and parking regulations. Without active code enforcement, rental properties have a detrimental effect on green space, property values, and community demographics.

BROCKPORT'S ANNUAL BUDGETARY NEEDS DIRECTLY RELATED TO SUNY BROCKPORT:

- **Police: SUNY related policing has stretched the Police Department thin; one additional fulltime officer (with benefits) is needed: \$150,000**
- **Codes: Off Campus Student Rentals: Inspections, registrations, and routine exterior property maintenance surveys consume the majority of our Code Enforcement Department's time: \$100,000**

SUNY Brockport serves students from every area of New York State, and beyond. We strive to make Brockport a welcoming community in which to safely and securely pursue a university education; SUNY Impact Aid is vital to provide the public safety resources our community needs and deserves.

Margaret Blackman, Mayor