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*For Immediate Release*

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## **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY DEDICATES NEW WATER DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS BUILDING IN THE VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY**

*\$1.47 million resiliency project is region's first to be completed in the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program*

*New storm-resistant facility will help ensure viable drinking water supply for surrounding towns and communities*

**Village of Johnson City, NY (December 16, 2016)** - The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today celebrated the dedication of the newly constructed Water Department Administration and Operations Building in the Village of Johnson City – marking the region's first project to be completed through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program. The NYRCR program was created to empower localities to secure funding for the projects that they deemed most critical to promoting infrastructure resiliency and ongoing recovery from the effects of Tropical Storm Lee, Hurricane Irene and/or Superstorm Sandy.

The \$1.47 million project was a priority for Broome County's NYRCR Committee and also included flood proofing of three water supply wells. The benefits of the new facility extend far beyond Village boundaries, as Johnson City supplies drinking water to the Village of Endicott, the Fairmont Park and the Westover neighborhoods in the Town of Union as well as the Town of Union Choconut Center Water District, the Town of Dickinson, Broome County Airport and Landfill. The department also provides emergency interconnections with the City of Binghamton and the Town of Vestal. Completion of this project ensures a more reliable drinking water source for the Village of Johnson City and residents and businesses of surrounding towns.

“With the dedication of this building, we celebrate the tangible results that the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program brings,” said Executive Director of GOSR, Lisa Bova-Hiatt. “We are thrilled that this community-driven project has been brought to fruition and know that it is one more step forward in our efforts to make the Village of Johnson City and surrounding communities more resilient to catastrophic weather events to come.”

In 2011, Tropical Storm Lee caused the swollen Chenango River to break through the levee, flooding the Village of Johnson City and the existing Water Department Administration Building. The facility sustained structural damage and was out of service for almost six weeks.

As a result, through the grassroots NYRCR Program – which empowers localities across the State to become actively involved in the recovery and resiliency processes – the Village chose to build a new administrative facility on higher ground at the same Camden Street site. The 2,700-square-foot building contains the SCADA computer monitoring system and administrative offices for Village water department personnel. Now that the Village occupies the new building, the Town of Union will begin demolition of the vacated structure and will build a new elevated storage building on that site.

The Department of Water Administration and Operations Building is the first of several projects the Village is planning using its NYRCR funding. Construction of an improved storm water drainage system for the Anna Maria and Reynolds Drive neighborhood is nearing completion. Tropical Storm Lee caused serious erosion and, in some cases, flooding to homes in the area. This project will ensure that storm water stays within its channel on its way to the Finch Hollow Storm Water Retention Facility. The final NY Rising project being considered by the Village focuses on improvements to the Department of Public Works facility.

Announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in April 2013, the NYRCR Program is designed to help storm-impacted communities throughout the State to build back better and stronger than before. Altogether, more than 650 New Yorkers served on 66 NYRCR Committees, which have collectively proposed approximately 700 local projects. Funding for both planning and project implementation comes from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), as part of its Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program.

Construction for the department project was managed by Broome County firms: the general contractor was William H. Lane, Inc. and subcontractors included Petcocsy & Sons for plumbing, Evans Mechanical for HVAC, and Matco Electric for electrical work. Keystone Associates also performed construction monitoring. One change order was executed for less than 1 percent of the total contract amount.

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NYRCR Program – as well as its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business and Infrastructure programs – GOSR invests \$4.4 billion in federal CDBG-DR (Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery) funding to better prepare New York for future extreme weather events. *More information about GOSR and its programs is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.*

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