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## **BINGHAMTON MAYORAL CANDIDATE RICH DAVID OUTLINES TRUE TRANSPARENCY POLICY IN CITY GOVERNMENT FOR CITY RESIDENTS**

**-DAVID INTENDS TO ALLOW MEDIA TO RETURN TO TRADITION ON UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO CITY HALL-**

**(BINGHAMTON, NY)** Mayoral Candidate Rich David today outlined steps he would take at City Hall to promote transparency in City Government.

“On day one I will immediately allow the media to freely enter City Hall with cameras and recording devices without restrictions,” said David. “During my tenure at City Hall I worked openly with the media on behalf of the Mayor and all Departments within City Hall. As a former reporter I know that one of the fundamental functions and responsibilities of the media is to provide timely and accurate information and promote accountability in government. The Ryan Administration’s decision to reverse a long standing policy at City Hall that allowed the media unobstructed access to City Hall was short-sighted and is in fact the opposite of transparency.”

As Mayor, David stressed that he would not require the media to file Freedom of Information (FOIL) for basic and routine information.

“In my opinion, and in my Administration, a freedom of information request would only be necessary for documentation that is not readily available, would require time to compile, involves legal or health related issues, or deals with very complex issues that require legal review and may contain components of confidentiality.”

This week the Ryan Administration touted the first in a four part open government video series, which City Officials claim is designed to promote transparency.

“You will never truly have transparency at City Hall when you obstruct media access or do not make yourself available in a timely fashion,” stressed David. “My concern is that at a certain point limiting media access, or imposing a set of rules or policies that hinders access, becomes censorship. Over the last four years we’ve heard a lot of rhetoric about transparency, and I will make City Hall truly open and accessible.”