

UTICA: REFUGEES AND REVITALIZATION

A LOOK AT UTICA'S FISCAL STRESS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL SOLUTIONS

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Loom Boom to Rust Bust



Source: www.photographium.com

A City of Refugees



- Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees opened in 1979
- Over 13,000 refugees
- 31 different countries
- 17.6 % of Utica's population is foreign born

Fiscal History

- 1996 – Sold water assets
- 2000s – Used Water Trust Fund and reserve funds to balance budget
- 2012 – NYS Comptroller threatened control board
- 2012 – Overrode tax cap and balanced budget



State Approach – Economic Development



Source: startup.ny.gov, uticaod.com

Municipal Approach – Seeking Other Revenue Sources



Municipal initiatives:

1. Fiscally responsible
2. Attempt to raise sales tax revenue

Neighborhood Approach – Community development



Neighborhood Approach – Community development



Source: (1) buffaloeats.org, (2) Mark DiOrio via uticaod.com, (4) Rust 2 Green (rust2green.org)

Putting the pieces together



Source: www.wikipedia.org