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Mayor, Community Coalition Plan to Lobby in Albany for City, County

By: Wendy Mills

Rochester Mayor Bob Duffy traveled to Albany with the Rochester Community Coalition Tuesday.

It's an annual trip to get lawmakers focused on what agendas this group has prioritized to benefit Rochester and Monroe County.

The coalition will work to gain support in the State Legislature for the coalition's 2010 agenda that includes, mandate reform for the city, education reform, the University of Rochester's desire for an exit off Interstate 390 near campus, and the Rochester Business Alliance, which wants to make the area more business-friendly for private investments.

"There are enormous challenges, and what happens is that everything you ask for, there is a special interest group on the opposite side pulling in the other direction, so it is not an exact science - but I believe that over time we can if we work together, we can make progress one step at a time," Duffy said Tuesday before he left for Albany.

Mayor Duffy has had a busy schedule. He was in D.C. for the U.S. Conference of Mayors, he's met with Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks and talked to New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, to get the state and localities more focused on public service.

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