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**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ****

Date: December 1, 2023

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Albany Common Council Statement on the Closure of the College Of Saint Rose

Dear Albany Community,

We stand together today in a moment of profound reflection and shared concern as we address the closure of the College of Saint Rose. This institutional cornerstone of Albany's educational landscape announced on November 30 that it will cease academic instruction at the conclusion of their 2024 academic year, concluding over a century of service to our community.

The College of Saint Rose is more than just an academic institution, it is a shining beacon of knowledge, culture, and community engagement in our beloved city. The College shaped the lives of countless students, faculty, and staff for over 103 years and left an indelible mark on the Pine Hills and Midtown neighborhoods and the broader Capital Region.

The impact that this closure will have on the College of Saint Rose students and staff is hard to put into words but we are keenly aware of the difficult path that is before them and the City as a whole. We echo the sentiments expressed by Mayor Kathy Sheehan and County Executive Daniel McCoy in their joint statement: our sympathy extends to all those who will be affected by this institution's closure and we, as your representatives, will be tirelessly focused on minimizing the impact of this closure on our community and residents. To accomplish this, we will work on reimagining the College of Saint Rose campus through collaboration with all stakeholders – city and county officials, state and local government leaders, academia, and developers.

Most importantly, we need to work with the community at the College of Saint Rose to ensure a smooth transition. We will endeavor to assist the College's staff in finding new employment opportunities and strive to work with students to ensure that they will be able to continue to excel in their future institutions.

We are dedicated to turning this obstacle into an opportunity for growth and renewal. We will explore every avenue to foster new possibilities that not only honor the legacy of the College of Saint Rose but also pave the way for future development and prosperity in the Pine Hills and Midtown neighborhoods, and throughout Albany.

As we navigate this transition, let us remember the vital role that the College of Saint Rose played in our city's history – a small private school for women in the 1920s that developed into the institution it is today through hard work and perseverance. The vote to close the institution presents a significant loss to our city, but in keeping with its storied history, we now have a unique opportunity to open a new chapter, to unite as a community and reaffirm our commitment to education, cultural enrichment, and economic growth.

The College of Saint Rose will be missed, but we are confident that the Pine Hills and Midtown neighborhoods will persevere. The Albany community stands behind these neighborhoods through this difficult time. Together, we will work towards a future that preserves the spirit of our community and embraces new horizons of opportunity and progress.