



### Vital Statistics Past Accomplishments

Under the leadership of Mayor Jennings, we have had an increase in our level of technology, and therefore we are able to provide better service to our customers.

The City Clerk purchased a GIS program, Maptitude, so we could accomplish the responsibility of redrawing our ward and election districts. Maptitude was a huge help when we had to redraw the election districts in order to be compliant with new NYS Assembly lines, as well as our own redistricting of ward and election districts based on our 2000 census figures. All of the work can now be done in-house at a considerable savings to the citizens of Albany.

Vital Statistics has a new and improved system of duplicating and ensuring the security of our birth and death records. We can now scan the records directly into our computer system. After the vendor completed the initial work, we now do all of our own scanning directly onto a server located in Computer Services. The records, from 1988 through to the present, are retrieved from the computers right at our desks.

The new technologies we have, allow us to better serve our customers in a quicker and more cost-effective way.

### Workload Data:

|         | <u>2006</u> | <u>2007</u> | <u>2008</u> |
|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| BIRTHS  | 4,949       | 5,161       | 4,960       |
| DEATHS  | 2,357       | 2,380       | 2,538       |
| REVENUE | \$235,328   | \$256,618   | \$250,677   |

### Future Goals, Challenges and Opportunities:

I hope that the future holds continued success for Vital Statistics. A goal and challenge facing Vital Statistics is that we need to continue to upgrade our system of securing and providing copies of our birth and death records. The early records, beginning with September of 1870, could use a project to make them more user friendly so that the public could have more access to them. The 1870 through 1913 indexes need to be redesigned and made easier to use, so that the information from the index could be made public. Making the indexes public, allows us to give the public access to general information and still keep the actual record secured.

We also need to consider upgrading our microfilmed records, from 1914 through 1987. The decision needs to be made whether to duplicate the original film or to begin to research the next step to leave the microfilm behind and research a newer system of securing and delivering these records.

We also need to support the U.S. Census Bureau in supporting the 2010 Census. April 1, 2010 the decennial census will be an opportunity for us to all count for our families, the city and ourselves and state in which we live. New York State could lose at least one more, and possibly two more congressional seats. The census population count is the magic number that taps \$400 billion dollars of federal funds available to localities. We need to tell people that the 2010 Census is only 10 questions. It is easy, important and safe. We need to ensure people that census data is not shared with any other agency at any level of government. As the Census Bureau slogan states, "It's In Our Hands". If we want to have a say in our governmental representation, where our schools and hospitals and nursing homes are built, we need to have the correct population numbers out there for people to make intelligent and informed decisions.

We need to always be looking for the opportunities available to make our office better and more efficient for our customers. I hope we can continue that goal well into the future, as I feel we have attempted in the past.