

Sottile, in reversal, signs building moratorium

Kingston mayor says he didn't want to jeopardize proposed CVS Pharmacy

■ The six-month ban, approved unanimously by the Common Council last month, affects four-tenths of a mile of Washington Avenue.

By **PAUL KIRBY**
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KINGSTON — Mayor James Sottile has signed a Washington Avenue building moratorium approved by the Common Council despite initial-



Sottile
a CVS Pharmacy proposed for the corner of Washington Avenue and

ly saying he would veto the measure.

Sottile said he changed his mind, in part, because he heard “rumblings” that, if he vetoed the legislation, the council would pass a new version that includes a CVS Pharmacy proposed for the corner of Washington Avenue and

■ Kingston Planning Board takes up CVS proposal on Jan. 12 ... page A3

Schwenk Drive.

The current version of the ban — approved on Dec. 16 by a veto-proof margin of 9-0 — excludes the CVS proposal.

Sottile said he did not want to jeopardize the CVS plan, which he supports for several reasons: It will occupy land on which two vacant build-

ings sit, it will create jobs and generate tax revenue, and the drugstore chain will pay the cost of cleaning up contaminants on the property.

The two buildings on the site formerly were occupied by Utility Platers and the Kingston Diagnostic Center.

The CVS plan currently is before

the Kingston Planning Board.

An early version of the proposed building moratorium included the property being eyed by CVS, and some critics of the ban said its intent was to stop the drugstore chain from building.

Alderman Thomas Hoffay, who first proposed the ban, ultimately led the push to exclude CVS from the

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Sottile, reversing self, signs Washington Ave. building ban

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legislation even though he doesn't want the store to be built.

Hoffay, D-Ward 2, said he was “gratified” that Sottile decided not to veto the bill.

The intent of the building ban — which covers the 0.4-mile stretch of Washington Avenue from the Esopus Creek to Lucas Avenue and will be in effect for six months — is to give the city time to create development guidelines for the corridor.

“The mayor recognizes that

this would be the best opportunity to make sure that Washington Avenue will have design standards for future development,” Hoffay said.

Opponents of the CVS proposal say a chain store would be out of character with the neighborhood, and they note that Uptown already has three drugstores: Nekos-Dedrick's on North Front Street, Walgreens in Kingston Plaza and the pharmacy department of the Hannaford Bros. supermarket, also in the plaza.