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## Metro York seeks solutions for city's problems

### Metro York: City's problems a countywide responsibility

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Leaders of a YorkCounts effort to tackle the problems of concentrated poverty and high property taxes in York City plan to announce possible remedies within six to eight months.

The co-chairs of the Metro York initiative addressed the Rotary Club of York at the Yorktowne Hotel yesterday. Eric Menzer and Bill Simpson said they are looking to put together three to five recommendations to present to the community.

It's important the greater York community help solve the problems in York City, Simpson said, which he called "the heart of the community."

"And think of this: If we do it, if we solve these problems, we will be the role model for communities across Pennsylvania," he said.

YorkCounts was formed several years ago to address the concerns over the fragmented government and economic issues of the greater York area.

Issues Metro York has been examining include looking at how to cope with the 40-year residential exodus from York City and the stress that has put on the city government.

City officials have considered applying for financially distressed status under the state Act 47, which puts a state-appointed coordinator in charge of financial decisions to put the city on a recovery plan.

Simpson said he thinks that's something the community needs to avoid.

"I personally believe that it will cast a pall across our whole York community," said Simpson, who is also the vice chairman of Susquehanna Real Estate. "We've got to find a way to solve the city's problems without Act 47."

Menzer, a vice president for Wagman Construction, did not go into much detail about what Metro York was considering.

However, when asked about unequal tax distribution, he discussed examples of county-wide taxes supporting city functions that benefit the region.

"We have to be creative about the way we tax ourselves," he said. "But I don't think there's any expectation of formal, legal consolidation (of municipalities)."

Menzer said once several solutions have been developed by Metro York, they'll offer those solutions up for public comment.

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