BUFFALO

Governor Cuomo Says START-UP NY Has Brought Eight Businesses to Buffalo

By: Kevin Jolly Updated 06/04/2014 06:00 PM

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Governor Andrew Cuomo spoke at Buffalo’s Roswell Park on Wednesday about the START-UP NY initiative. It created 64 tax-free zones for businesses across the state, with 59 of the zones in Western New York.

“We have businesses coming in that you couldn’t dream of three years ago,” said Gov. Cuomo, D-New York.

Cuomo said since the program’s launch last year, 12 businesses will either expand or move to Western New York. Eight of those businesses are coming to Buffalo.

“Eight businesses today? When is the last time you heard of eight businesses moving to Buffalo, right?” asked Cuomo.

One of those businesses coming to Buffalo is Lineagen, a bio-genetics testing company out of Salt Lake City, Utah. Mark Smith is the first person hired locally by the company.

“I think START-UP NY, to paraphrase what was said today, it was the jump start, it was the deal sealer. It just made a lot of sense to take advantage of what the governor offered in terms of tax relief,” said Smith.

Cuomo said the eight businesses coming to Buffalo will create about 400 new jobs and generate $50 million in investments.

“What’s really amazing to me is what wasn’t evident today, is the pipeline of businesses that are lining up to join this START-UP NY initiative. Fifty-nine of the 64 zones are upstate so this is going to be huge for Buffalo and Western New York. You’re just starting to see it now,” said Howard Zemsky, president of Larken Development.

“The city has really married its economic development policies with what the state is doing. One of the reasons why we have cut the residential and commercial tax rates is because we want all of these new job holders, as many as possible, to live in the City of Buffalo when they get here,” said Mayor Byron Brown, D-Buffalo.

START-UP NY involves partnerships between state universities and businesses. To date, 26 schools statewide have been approved for Start-Up New York.