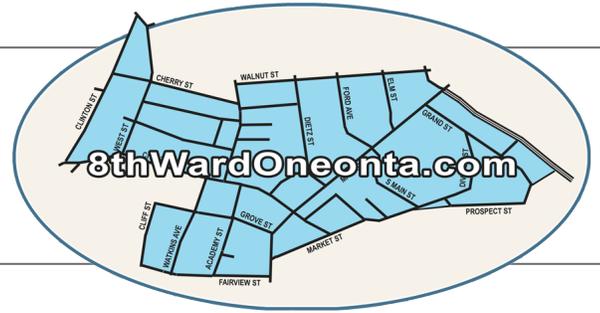

Mark Drnek for Council

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The Planning Commission will reconvene on November 6th, to review the Lofts on Dietz proposal and recommend (or not) for Council's consideration.

There are several letters of support in hand from the colleges, the hospital and others.

I propose a letter writing campaign from those most effected, to be entered into the record as a counter-balance to those supporting documents.

Letters should be addressed to: Anna Tomaino, Chair
Planning Commission
Oneonta City Hall
258 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820

Points you may want to consider when writing:

- By varying estimates, the proposed building will reduce parking in the Dietz Street lot by 60-80 spaces
- The tenants will have parking spaces assigned in the Parking Garage.

These will be “reserved spaces” and will remove those from the choice of spaces available.

Despite space “reservation” in the garage it is likely that many tenants will opt for the convenience of parking adjacent to the building, thereby wasting the “reserved” garage space.

- Tenants will undoubtedly have friends, relatives and acquaintances that will require more parking spaces
- It is easily projected that this building - despite its many merits - will impact city parking by 150-200 spaces.

Add to that the demand that will be created by upper floor tenants in refurbished Main Street buildings, and several hundred parking spots will be in jeopardy.

- The impact on businesses will be dramatic, with clients forced to find parking in more distant and less convenient locations. Some may decide that downtown is too difficult to access and may consider other venues for their business.
- The impact on the neighborhoods will also be felt with student vehicles (and others) which populate the Dietz Street lot in the evenings, being forced into already overcrowded side streets.

It is my contention that the issues of parking need to be addressed and mitigated, before any construction, no matter how worthy, is green-lit by the Planning Commission.