

TEXT OF GARY HERZIG LETTER ANNOUNCING INTENTION

Dear Friends,

Prior to a public announcement, I would like you to know that I intend to be a candidate in this year's election for the office of Mayor of the City of Oneonta. I am hoping to earn your support.

We are very fortunate to call Oneonta our home - a vibrant, inclusive, creative community nestled in the hills of beautiful Otsego County. We are also fortunate to have had strong leadership and involved citizens who have helped us to realize significant progress and new investments in recent years. Our accomplishments have included a revitalized Main Street anchored by the renovated Bresee's building and the Clarion Hotel/Muller Plaza; a new zoning code designed to both stabilize residential neighborhoods and support new development; a Comprehensive Housing Plan; Hillside Commons; a viable Foothills Performing Arts Center; and the current plan to replace abandoned dilapidated buildings with affordable housing for our working families and seniors through a partnership with Housing Visions, Opportunities for Otsego, New York State, and private investors.

During the past thirty years, I have had the privilege to lead at Opportunities for Otsego and the Oneonta Job Corps Academy – two of Oneonta's vital service organizations. I have served, and continue to serve, on numerous Oneonta city boards, commissions, and task forces. I will use my experiences to shape teams which will build upon recent accomplishments while also addressing our challenges which, left unchecked, threaten the stability of our future. Without new revenues, our current deficit spending will erase our reserves. Oneonta's housing stock continues to deteriorate while affordable housing for working families becomes harder to find. Quality jobs and economic development are much needed and many residents are expressing quality of life concerns.

Oneonta is at an important juncture. With effective leadership and community involvement, we can build upon our recent accomplishments and overcome our challenges. During the coming weeks and months, I will be communicating more of my thoughts and plans for our city. I will be asking for your advice, guidance, and support. I encourage your feedback, thoughts, and suggestions – please email or call me at 607.435.1026.

Thank you

Gary