

## **STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF MANAGED PARKING PROPOSAL WRITER STAFF POSITION**

City Council Meeting Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Our organization supports the item on Commissioner Martin's agenda tonight to create a temporary part-time City employee to help initiate a comprehensive parking plan and program for downtown Saratoga Springs. This action is a much-needed step in the right direction.

We all know we have long had a parking problem, but our solutions can best be found when viewing parking as part of an overall transportation strategy. In the last 20 years, the City has had 9 downtown parking studies. Almost all of them have called for improved management of parking. The 2015 City Comprehensive Plan calls for managed parking.

Almost three years ago, the City Council unanimously adopted the recommendations of the Downtown Parking Task Force as policy. They recommended the City create a unified and efficient Parking Management Plan and Policy for Downtown. This new temporary staff position is an important first step in implementing that policy you adopted three years ago.

We applaud Commissioner Martin for creating this position and we hope he has the unanimous support of the Council for this action.