



**Dear DeWitt Resident or Business Owner:**

NYS Senator John DeFrancisco and Assembly Member Pam Hunter are supporting legislation to establish a 2.75% Town Room Occupancy Tax in DeWitt, (Senate Bill #8814 and Assembly Bill #10904, respectively). I am asking you to support this legislation **by emailing or calling our NYS representatives by June 18<sup>th</sup>** to let them know you feel this proposed tax will benefit not only the Town of DeWitt, but the broader regional economy, too. (See contact info. below).

Our CNY region needs robust economic development projects that not only strengthen our economy now, but continue to do so well into the future. Carrier Park is just such a project; it is a positive, proactive economic "engine" that's providing economic strength, stability, and security for our community, while enhancing the quality of life for families throughout CNY, and also the economic growth of Onondaga County and the greater CNY region.

Below is information about the proposed tax, its purpose, and how it will support DeWitt residents and businesses, and also the regional economy. If you have any questions, please contact me at [supervisor@townofdewitt.com](mailto:supervisor@townofdewitt.com) or 315.446.3910, ext. #5.

- Carrier Park is a state-of-the-art \$12.5 million multi-sport, outdoor recreation facility. What makes Carrier Park unique, is that it is one of the very first fully handicap accessible, fully integrated outdoor sports complexes in the region for children **and** adults...**including** those with special needs.
- It is the home of Syracuse Challenger Baseball, one of the largest single districts of the Challenger Baseball program in the United States. The Challenger program provides children and young adults with physical and developmental disabilities the opportunity to do something most of us take for granted for our children...play baseball.
- **Carrier Park is the product of a positive, productive partnership between the Town of DeWitt, Carrier Corporation, and Syracuse Challenger Baseball.** When completed, the complex will include up to 9 championship tournament quality fields, including 2 dynamically designed super turf fields which can be utilized for baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer, football, field hockey, and other special events, as well as batting cages, basketball courts, an all-inclusive special needs playground, and a walking trail.

- The proposed 2.75% Town Room Occupancy Tax – an average of less than \$2.50 per night/per room - would be collected from visitors to the town who stay at our DeWitt hotels, many of them here to attend tournaments at Carrier Park. Funds from the tax would go to support completion of the construction of our Carrier Park Recreation Facility, and also for substantive infrastructure improvements, projects, and services that specifically benefit the hotels in our hotel district off Carrier Circle.
- DeWitt is home to more than 30 hotels that provide \$100 million in assessed value to our town tax base, they are integral to the economic vitality of our community. **At the same time, our Carrier Park Recreation Facility hosts tournaments and events that draw visitors to fill those hotels and keep occupancy rates high.**
- The proposed town room occupancy tax would be collected by the hotels with a minimum of 30% of the funds dedicated to infrastructure improvements, services, and projects within the hotel district including, but not limited to: sidewalks, snow removal, way-finding signage, bike infrastructure, and intersection improvements. (We would also establish a committee of hotel owners/operators/managers to help oversee the expenditure of those funds.) The remaining funds would support the completion of construction of Carrier Park, operations and maintenance, events, future expansion of the facility, marketing, and special projects that benefit the hotels, as well as the park.
- With approximately 2,900 hotel rooms in DeWitt, and based on a 50% average occupancy rate (significantly below the documented average/year the last few years), this town room occupancy tax would generate approx. \$1.37+ million per year.
- The tax would support the hotels with infrastructure and services, while at the same time **tournaments and special events hosted at Carrier Park would support the hotels with increased occupancy from out of town visitors, and local and regional businesses with increased customer traffic.**
- Specifically, when completed the \$12.5 million Carrier Park Recreational Facility is projected to host a minimum of 20 major sports tournaments per year - generating up to \$500,000 per year in revenue - and an additional \$2.5 million in economic activity (hotels, food, gas). Plus, that \$2.5 million doesn't include additional retail and entertainment spending that benefits the greater CNY economy far beyond DeWitt!
- Attached you will find contact information for our NYS representatives, also see: <http://www.townofdewitt.com/documents/1396.pdf> For more info. about Carrier Park, go to: <http://carrierpark.org/story>

Please use the information above, and the contact information below, to email or call our NYS representatives **by June 18<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you for your commitment to our community.

**Edward M. Michalenko, Ph.D., Supervisor, Town of DeWitt**



Please email or call our NYS representatives **by June 18, 2018** to support the proposed 2.75% Town of DeWitt Hotel Room Occupancy Tax:

**NYS Assemblywoman Pamela J. Hunter**

711 E. Genesee St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Syracuse, NY 13210  
315-449-9536  
[HunterP@nysassembly.gov](mailto:HunterP@nysassembly.gov)

**NYS Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli**

840 State Office Bldg.  
333 E. Washington St.  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
315-428-9651  
[MagnarW@nysassembly.gov](mailto:MagnarW@nysassembly.gov)

**NYS Assemblyman Al Stirpe**

7293 Buckley Rd., Suite 201  
North Syracuse, NY 13212  
[StirpeA@nysassembly.gov](mailto:StirpeA@nysassembly.gov)

**NYS Senator John A. DeFrancisco**

800 State Office Bldg.  
333 E. Washington St.  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
315-428-7632 (Fax) 315-472-4157  
[jdefranc@nysenate.gov](mailto:jdefranc@nysenate.gov)

**NYS Senator David J. Valesky**

805 State Office Bldg.  
333 E. Washington St.  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
315-478-8745 (Fax) 315-474-3804  
[valesky@nysenate.gov](mailto:valesky@nysenate.gov)

# Town of DeWitt

## Hotel District

### Proposed Hotel Tax

## Hotel District Revitalization

The Town of DeWitt is seeking to implement a 2.75% Hotel Room Occupancy Tax to support substantive infrastructure improvements to the Carrier Circle Hotel District including, but not limited to: sidewalks, wayfinding signage, bike infrastructure, and intersection improvements.

Revenues from the Hotel Room Occupancy Tax would be dedicated

### Hotel District and Carrier Park



## Proposed Improvements

The Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) recently completed the "Carrier Park Mobility Plan," a study that identifies potential infrastructure improvements including sidewalks, wayfinding

to capital projects, as well as the completion of the Carrier Park recreational facility.

Implementation of the tax requires legislative action by the New York State Legislature. The Hotel Owner/Operator would be responsible to collect the tax at the time the room is paid for by the occupant(s).

signage, bike infrastructure, and intersection improvements for the Hotel District and surrounding area. Figure 10, to the right, illustrates potential improvements that were identified through the study.

## About Carrier Park



The Willis Carrier Park Recreational facility (Carrier Park) is a state-of-the-art, outdoor, multi-sport complex for children and adults, including those with special needs. One of the first fully integrated, fully handicapped

accessible multi-sport facilities in the U.S., it is home of the Syracuse Challenger Baseball program, one of the largest single districts of the Challenger program in the nation.

When completed, the complex will be unrivaled in CNY, capable of hosting tournaments, leagues, and myriad special activities and events. The completed complex includes up to 9 championship tournament fields, including 2 dynamically designed super turf fields which can be utilized for baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer, football, field hockey, and other special events. In July 2017, the park hosted a Symphoria/Fireworks event attended by over

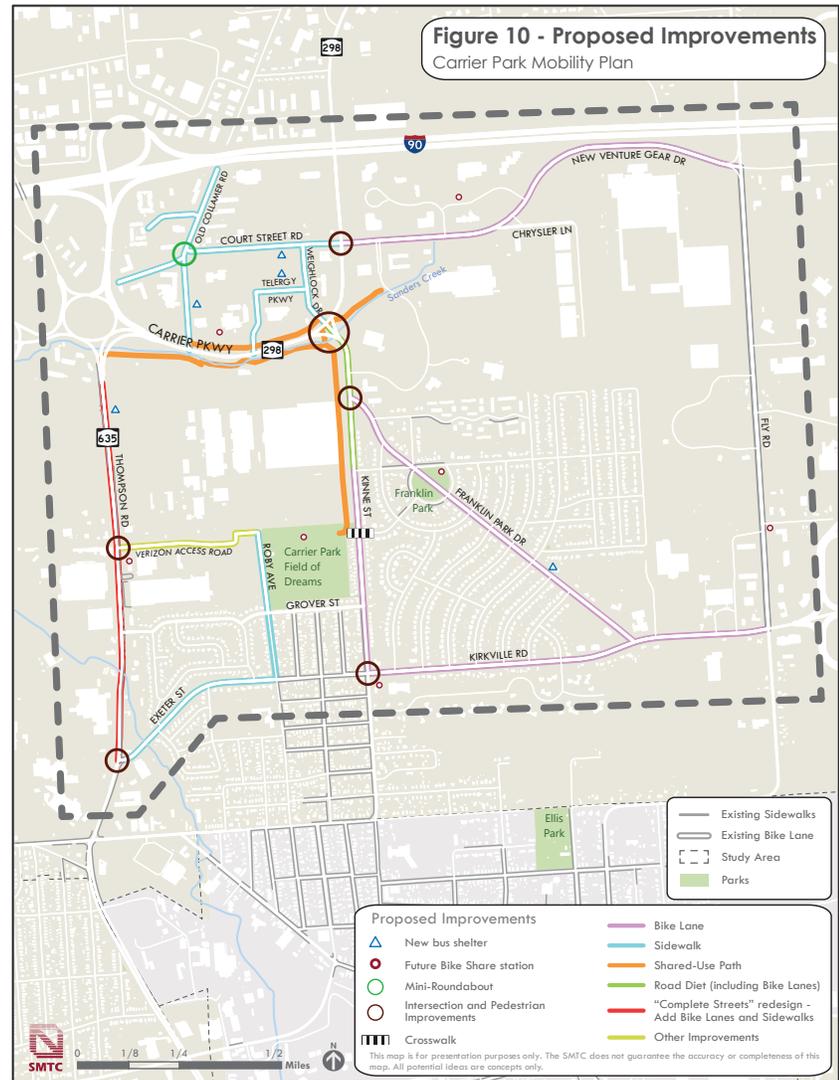
1200 residents from the greater Syracuse community.

Basketball courts, an all-inclusive special needs playground, and a walking trail are also part of the completed plan. (Also, a marketing feasibility study is presently being commissioned by the Town.)

Phase 1 of the project was completed in 2016. To date, the park includes a beautiful, state-of-the-art entry plaza and gateway building, walkways, concession and concession patios, extensive parking, and all infrastructure for future phases.

## BY THE NUMBERS

THE PROPOSED HOTEL TAX IS 2.75% OF THE COST OF ROOM OCCUPANCY PER NIGHT. BASED ON A 50% AVERAGE OCCUPANCY RATE WITH APPROXIMATELY 2943 HOTEL ROOMS IN THE TOWN, IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT \$1.37 MILLION WOULD BE GENERATED ANNUALLY.



For more information contact:  
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