For Immediate Release

Ithaca's "Mayor of Collegetown" Retiring

The Next Generation Is Taking Over Uncle Marty's Shipping Office

Ithaca, NY— November 9, 2023 — Ownership of Uncle Marty's Shipping Office in Collegetown, a popular packing, shipping, printing, and storage hub for the Ithaca community, will be transferred to the caring hands of its new proprietors on January 1, 2024.

Marty Johnson, who founded Uncle Marty's on September 1, 2011, is selling the growing business to his current Store Manager, Clark Young, and his fiancé, Codey Noel. The next generation is excited to take the Uncle Marty's Shipping Office brand to the next level with a second location in Downtown Ithaca in the works, some forward-thinking plans to expand current services offered, and an app in development that will help fortify their existing student storage enterprise.

Clark has proven his entrepreneurship chops already with the success of Cantrip Cards and Games at 207 Elmira Road in Ithaca, which he co-founded and co-owns with other partners. Having worked by Marty's side for five years at Uncle Marty's Shipping Office, he knows the business and its clients and mission very well and is ready to take the reins to continue its success. Clark and Codey Noel will keep the flagship Collegetown Uncle Marty's location going strong while expanding the brand across the community in new and exciting ways.

Given the unofficial nickname "Mayor of Collegetown" by one of Ithaca's former real mayors, Marty has served as a community leader for his 12-plus years in business in the area. He's often seen at town hall meetings, council events, Tompkins Chamber events, and at City Hall when he's discussing neighborhood improvement, beautification, and collaboration.

On January 1st, Marty will be stepping down from his role as Director and Co-Founder of the Collegetown Small Business Alliance and is currently working on getting a replacement ready.

Marty will also be stepping down from his position with the Association of Mail & Business Centers (AMBC) as Director of Communication and Advisor to the Board, having previous served as a founding board member and the non-profit's Board Chair. This will allow Marty to retire from shopkeeper and association director life in order to take care of some family needs as well as focus on new projects, including writing he shares through his popular Ask Uncle Marty™ business advice column (askunclemarty.com) and through the mail and business center industry's leading publication, *MBC Today,* which Marty both edits and produces.

Uncle Marty's Shipping Office has a long list of recognitions as a model business both locally and nationally. Uncle Marty's was one of the first AMBC Certified Gold Stores in the country, has been featured in the *FedEx ShipSource*® publication four times, and maintains a consistent and authentic five-star review rating on all platforms. The business has become a Collegetown anchor destination, with clients coming from counties away to take advantage of their certified professional packaging service and position as the area's go-to DHL ServicePoint, FedEx Authorized ShipCenter®, and USPS Approved Postal Provider. Uncle Marty's specialized in art packing and shipping, working with many of Ithaca's local artists, and also does small and large format printing, office services, private mailbox and virtual mailbox rentals, and student storage, having become a favorite of many Cornell and Ithaca College students. They also have one of the area's best selections of hand-picked, unique greeting cards.

The team at Uncle Marty's Shipping Office will be hosting an open house on December 30, 2023, from noon to 4 p.m. at 206A Dryden Road, Ithaca, to congratulate Clark and Codey Noel on taking over the business, as well as to wish Marty well in his semi-retirement. Please join them if you can.

For more information, press only:

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Please also see Marty's recent article "The Next Chapter" for more information about challenges faced and overcome in his 12+ years in business:

http://www.askunclemarty.com/2023/11/the-next-chapter.html