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**Eric Olauson**

# Media Release

## **Eric Olauson Announces His Platform for Ward 3 City Council Election**

**Saskatoon, SK, September 21, 2011:** Candiadate Eric Olauson has announced his platform and policy statement for the Ward 3 by-election in Saskatoon.

A fiscal and social conservative, Eric believes in allowing the private sector to deliver the services they deliver best. He believes the City should focus primarily on safety and infrastructure and support the private sector in delivery of most other services. A strong city begins with strong communities and Eric's vision is to empower individual communities with the budgets and guidance they need to thrive, and in turn, strengthen Saskatoon as a whole. The City is entering an exciting phase of its development and his leadership will provide the vision and guidance that is necessary for that growth.

Further developing this statement:

1. The City must differentiate between needs and wants. We need certain services, and as ratepayers, deserve those services.

### **NEEDS:**

- a. Infrastructure-encompasses roads, buildings, and services that are vital to the City mandate. We deserve clean, well-maintained roads as well as the transportation infrastructure that supports our current population and is scalable.
- b. Safety Services-police, fire and the essential services that a vibrant and growing city needs to protect its' citizens and allow for population growth. This *does* include the equipment and

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infrastructure that the police and fire department need that is critical for them to provide the services they do.

- c. Adequate funding and resources for community associations to provide the programming that is so vital to encouraging citizens to connect and communicate with their neighbors and others within their community. The community associations are the first people new and existing residents see. Let them do what they do best and provide the best and most cost-effective solutions to them.
- d. Art Gallery-latest budget figure is \$84 million dollars.
- e. River Landing-latest budget figure is \$85 million dollars.
- f. Whitewater Rafting development-\$???

#### **PRIORITIES:**

As a member of City Council, I will prioritize all these projects to establish what exactly is *needed* as opposed to *wanted*. There are thousands of questions that I don't believe have been answered. What exactly did we get or *will* we get from these dollars? How exactly are we going to pay for these pricey projects? How will they generate revenue to allow for the operating expenses? Is there a better way to fund these projects? Private/Public partnerships could be explored. Cost-recovery projects are also very popular. These are all questions that I ask myself in my current position as President of the East College Park Community Association. The City's current infrastructure deficit for roads is **\$147 for every man, woman and child living in Saskatoon according to The Canada West Foundation. That amount totals \$33,000,000.** My policy is to prioritize and re-evaluate the above projects altogether and put the money back into fixing the roads and not allowing snow to pile up on the roads that our families and friends rely on to get to work and school.

I also want to do a review of the services Saskatoon provides to its' citizens. Are there some services that the private sector can provide? Is there a way to make some of these programs and services user-pay? I know that the private sector can provide services at a cheaper cost than the City is providing it for right now. Or, the private companies won't. In that case, is it a service that should even be offered?

In conclusion, I have many ideas that I have formed through my experience in the private sector and managing projects and people through complicated systems. These are some questions I help my neighbours, friends, colleagues and fellow citizens ask themselves before embarking on a huge undertaking. It's time the City was asked them as well.