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For Immediate Release
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COUNCILLOR PAUL CARR FILES FOR RE-ELECTION

This morning I filed my nomination papers at Belleville City Hall for re-election, as City Councillor for Ward 2.

It has been a tremendous honour and privilege to serve the residents of Thurlow Ward for the past three and a half years, and I wanted to signal my enthusiasm and drive to continue to represent them, by filing at the first opportunity.

Four years ago, I listened to residents' concerns and then laid out a very specific, results-oriented agenda, in order to address their priorities. I championed a Comprehensive Road Maintenance Program for the city; with more money being invested in Ward 2 roads this term than ever before.

Since 2015, approximately \$4.15 Million dollars has been allocated for enhanced road maintenance for Ward 2 alone, with another \$4.19 Million dollars for Ward 1.

Open and transparent government cannot be just words, but must be followed by actions as well. I have always maintained a citizen-centred approach as a City Councillor. I implemented bi-annual town hall ward meetings to hear directly from residents regarding their thoughts on proposed budgets as well as other issues facing the city. I have maintained a social media presence and website to keep residents informed, and also to provide an enhanced measure of accountability.

During this term, I brought forward motions to council to set operating budget targets, in order to provide fiscal direction to city staff. This assisted in establishing prudent budgets with minimal tax increases with either a continuation, or enhancement of service levels.

It's important that we have a modern and contemporary local government that is agile and responsive to city residents and investors alike. Enhancing the customer service experience is critical; from tracking problem reporting to measuring how the city performs.

As Chair of the Performance Standards Committee, I am pleased to report, that in the next few weeks, the Departmental Performance Indicators will go live on the city's website with a Measurement Dashboard. This is the first step in developing an overall Performance Measurement System, including Results-Based Budgeting, with Annual Departmental Plans and Results Reports. This, along with pre-budget consultations, will provide for greater accountability to taxpayers and allow for a citizen engagement approach to the annual city budgets.

After years of neglect by past councils, an ambitious capital program was implemented this term which has contributed to increased debt for our city. While I did not vote in favour of incurring so much debt, focus needs to turn to a debt reduction plan and implementation of a pay-as-you go capital program. This has proven successful in other municipalities and can be replicated here.

This past year, I advocated for the gradual elimination of the vacant building tax rebate program. Starting in 2019, this tax needs to be put to work and allocated into a business start-up, or occupancy grant program. This will essentially have commercial building taxes, which were once vacant, now paying for this grant program. We also need to encourage and promote private investment in tourism infrastructure and continue with the overall enhancement of our local economy.

As the election campaign gets underway, more details of my platform will be released at paulcarr.ca

As always, my primary focus remains on your priorities.

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