



CITY OF KENNER

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

EDMOND J. "ED" MUNIZ
MAYOR

EMILE LAFOURCADE
ASSISTANT TO THE MAYOR,
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 8, 2009

KENNER MAYOR SAYS HE WILL NOT RUN FOR RE-ELECTION

Ed Muniz Cites Council's Reluctance to Find Solid Revenue Stream

In a meeting Tuesday afternoon with all the city's directors and assistant directors, Kenner Mayor Ed Muniz announced that he will not seek re-election and will instead work to give citizens an immediate voice in their future.

In his announcement, Muniz said he will dedicate himself to a campaign for Kenner citizens, "not for me."

"I will not seek re-election to the office of Mayor of Kenner," he said. "Instead, I will campaign to give each household the truth, the hard, cold facts about our city and its future, and I will ask the council to allow a vote of the people on the issue of finances.

"I do not want a personal campaign for mayor to cloud the tough decisions that will shape our city. I want what is best for Kenner."

Muniz painted a bleak picture of Kenner's financial future and noted that citizens should have the right to vote on their quality of life now, not when it is politically expedient.

"The city must either cut services, or increase revenue," Muniz said. "The economic woes of a nation are taking their toll here at home. Sales taxes are down considerably." He pegged much of the problem with Kenner's financial resources on a heavy use of sales taxes instead of dedicated millages.

Muniz noted that his office has already saved as much as \$4 million from budget cuts, but he is already staring at another \$3.8 million in necessary cuts in 2010. He offered a solution.

"Kenner is the largest city in Jefferson Parish and operates on a levy of just over 18 mills," he said. "Meanwhile, Gretna uses almost 44 mills to serve its citizens. I recently proposed to the council a 5.5-mill increase for voter consideration. In plain words, I wanted to give voters the opportunity to decide their own fate - either by paying additional millages to support our city

services including police and fire, or by continuing to cut a balanced budget. Voters should have the right to decide on their own future.”

Reflecting on his 30 years in public office, he praised the efforts of city workers, stating, “Those are the real public servants. They are in their jobs for a stronger, better Kenner ... not for political muscle or power.”

Muniz cited some of his major accomplishments: “During the last four years, we have accomplished much. Today, the office of Mayor and Chief of Police work in concert to protect the people of Kenner despite an austere budget. As mayor, I have dramatically cut waste, redirected funds to critical services, and began a sewer system overhaul that was neglected for far too long. We created resources to save our parks and playgrounds, and dedicated existing resources to fix streets, sidewalks and traffic signals. There is so much more we could tout, but I am more focused on the future, not the past.”

Muniz praised his administrative team, saying he was successful in surrounding himself with well-qualified and experienced advisors who have worked hard for the city.

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