

25Jul09

Dear City of Prescott Council Candidate:

In some past City of Prescott elections, the Open Space Alliance of Central Yavapai County (OSA) has hosted candidate forums to inform candidates about open space issues from the citizens' perspective, introduce our member organizations, and engage candidates in dialog. We have not made these arrangements this election cycle due to the crowded forum schedule. We are providing some of this information to the council candidates in the enclosed packet.

The packet includes the following documents:

- OSA pamphlet

- OSA accomplishments over the past 2 years

- Two recent letters to Mayor Wilson and Council endorsing the Open Space Master Plan and purchase of the Beurie property

- The Stewardship of Natural Resources section of the Smart Growth Scorecard for the City of Prescott.

- Material from 2000 City of Prescott Sales Tax Initiative Information Packet

The 2000 Sales Tax Initiative Information is provided to you because there are some misconceptions and inaccuracies about the open space commitment that was made to the voters in 2000. Unfortunately, some of this incorrect information has already surfaced in the forums.

This information will allow you to judge for yourself on the extent of this commitment and what the peril may be if it is not honored.

One question suggested that there was a choice to be made between purchasing open space and funding public safety. The language of the ballot [on page 2] states: ***"...to allow the proceeds to be used to provide funds for street improvements and street repairs, as well as the acquisition of open space..."*** There is no provision for these funds to be used for any other purpose regardless of how worthy or desired.

The full texts of Ordinance 3950, 18 January, 2000; Resolution 3227, 18 January, 2000; Resolution 3231, 8 February, 2000 is included. You can determine if you believe that this alters the intent of the numerous statements about the commitment to purchase open space. The first statement of intent is on page 2 of the packet, ***“The resolution caps the amount of additional 1 percent sales tax revenue at \$40.7 million and dedicates the balance collected through 2015 to road improvements.”***

It you have any questions or comments, please call or e-mail me.

Looking Forward,

Thomas L. Pettit, Ph.D.
(928)379-3644 tlpettit@gmail.com
President, Open Space Alliance of Central Yavapai County (OSA)
P.O. Box 211
Prescott, AZ 86302-0211
<http://www.yavapaiosa.org>

Cc: Robert Behnke
Bob Bell
Steve Blair
John Hanna
Paul Katan
Tammy Linn
Bob Luzius
Michael Allen Peters