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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WARD 2 COUNCIL SEAT VACATED

The City of Urbana is accepting applications for the Urbana City Council seat vacated by Ward 2 Alderman Eric Jakobsson (D-Urbana). Jakobsson announced that he was stepping down effective June 30, 2020 to pursue new directions in teaching, writing, and research.

"It is with very mixed feelings that I am stepping away from my Council seat at this time," Jakobsson said. "I hope it has been clear from my demeanor that I have enjoyed myself. But I am very excited at new directions that have opened up to me, in teaching, research, and writing."

He said that he wants to take the time to pursue new interests.

"At the age of 81, it is rare to have such new opportunities. Also at the age of 81, there is neither the time nor the energy to do it all and also be a responsible member of Council," He said.

Jakobsson also added that, "Having been lucky enough to live this long, I now calculate my future in a new way: How long will I likely have the ability to do anything useful or interesting, and how will I parcel out that time and ability?"

Still, Jakobsson is proud of the work that was accomplished on the City Council during his tenure.

"Looking back at my almost nine years on Council, I believe the City has moved in very good directions and is well prepared to weather the current crises. I have complete confidence in the Mayor, in my Council colleagues, and in the City staff to navigate through the current issues and make Urbana better for all our residents," Jakobsson said.

"It's been wonderful to work with Eric Jakobsson over the past 9 years. We could count on him to research topics, bring new perspectives to the discussion, and consider each issue thoughtfully. He based his decisions on facts and spoke from the heart," Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin said.

Per state law, Mayor Marlin has up to 60 days from the date of a council member's resignation to recommend an appointment to the City Council to fill the remainder of the term which ends



May 3, 2021. The Urbana City Council must vote on the appointment within 30 days. Mayor Marlin hopes to recommend a replacement in mid-July to minimize the amount of time the seat is vacant.

The City Council application packet is available online at www.urbanaininois.us/ward2seat. Fillable application forms and paper application forms may also be requested at: CityClerk@urbanaininois.us.

Deadline for applying is Wednesday, July 1, 2020. Legal qualifications for the office established by state statute include the following:

1. Must be eligible to vote in municipal elections.
2. Must have resided in Ward 2 for at least one year preceding the appointment (Ward 2 map below).
3. Must not owe any delinquent taxes, fees, or fines to the City of Urbana at the time the oath of office is taken.
4. Must not have been convicted of a felony in any U.S. court.

Applicants must be available to attend City Council meetings every Monday evening and upon occasion for other events and activities.

For more information about the City of Urbana, please visit www.urbanaininois.us.

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