

For Immediate Release

March 30, 2012

Jack Eaton announced today that he will be filing petitions to run in the August Democratic primary for a seat representing the Fourth Ward on the Ann Arbor City Council.

Eaton is a 27-year resident of the Ann Arbor area who has lived in the Dicken neighborhood for fourteen years. Eaton originally came to Ann Arbor to attend the University of Michigan. After graduating from UM, Eaton attended and graduated from the Wayne State University Law School. He and his wife Cecile have two adult children, a son and a daughter.

Eaton is a labor attorney with a firm that represents public employee labor unions (but none with connections to the City of Ann Arbor). Before becoming an attorney, Eaton was a labor leader in Kalamazoo.

Eaton has been active for some years in civic issues in Ann Arbor, especially those affecting neighborhoods. He was an early member of the Friends of Dicken Woods and later served as that group's president. Eaton founded the South Maple Group (www.southmaple.org), and co-founded the Neighborhood Alliance (www.a2na.org). He was one of a core group of activists who helped defeat the effort to place a hotel and conference center on the Library Lot in 2011.

Eaton said "While I believe that a healthy downtown is important, I also believe that we must find a way to balance our downtown efforts with the concerns and interests of the neighborhoods." Pointing to the City's improved revenue and budget prospects, Eaton added, "As we recover from the severe recession we must pay particular attention to rebuilding the services that were cut to balance our budget."

Eaton says that his campaign will center around rebuilding and sustaining Ann Arbor as a community that serves its residents. "We must establish sensible priorities, rebuild our safety services and maintain our infrastructure."

"We are now in a position where we can restore public safety staffing and begin to address our infrastructure needs." Eaton explained that he would advocate budget priorities that put services to residents before extravagant projects.

Eaton believes that the city must work to protect and maintain our parks and recreation facilities. "We have a dedicated millage for park acquisition and maintenance and we should revisit how we use those funds. Our parks are an important asset in making our town attractive to economic development."

Eaton also stressed his desire to encourage more openness in city government. "We need to tap the ideas and energy of our citizens. Residents should have easy access to information upon which Council and staff make their decisions."

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