



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Slomka Ready To Hit The Ground Running as Mayor

(Kingston ON) Mayoral candidate Brenda Slomka urged voters, when they go to the polls on Monday, to consider each candidates' vision, leadership, social skills and policies – and to vote for the person who will enhance Council's effectiveness and creativity and improve Kingston residents' quality of life.

“Over the last two months I've had the privilege to share with Kingston my 15 years of experience working in post-secondary, as a community volunteer, and as Co-Chair of a City Council Committee. I've budgeted, built teams and bolstered quality of life. I have the communication, group process and social skills to maximize the effectiveness of Council and mobilize action on key priorities.”

Ms. Slomka, 35, is Manager of Residence Life at St. Lawrence College. She is co-chair of the City and United Way's Poverty Reduction Initiative, Supports for Education arm. Brenda serves as a Board of Director member for the Kingston Youth Shelter. She is a member of the Kingston-Frontenac Anti-Violence Coordinating Committee and is a member of the KFL&A Safe and Sober Alliance.

In response to a recent question for The Kingstonist on her early term priorities if elected Mayor, Brenda responded as follows:

“Team building is a top priority: to create a culture of consensus (not that we always agree, but that we strive towards unity on key issues) so that we have an environment for healthy decision making that will allow us to move forward.

For this reason, I would lead an initiative to develop a Council Charter to define values that we would govern by. I would spend the time with each Councillor to fully appreciate their priorities/shared priorities for all districts of the city.

In my platform, put forward in press releases that are available online, during debates and on doorsteps, I have described my goal to help build a more cooperative, creative and compassionate city defined by innovation, entrepreneurship and robust sustainability. In terms of practical initiatives, the following are some priorities for early in my term as Mayor if elected:

- Establish a Loyal Venture Capital Development working group – reaching out especially to Queen’s School of Business – to develop a strategy designed to build up a significant pool of venture capital in Kingston that will support local entrepreneurs and innovations that will help create jobs, stimulate economic growth and increase quality of life.
- Begin a robust community engagement process to develop immediate and practical marketing and commercial strategies to progressively increase revenues spent on Arts and Culture in Kingston so that Kingston’s artists are better supported economically.
- Chair a Kingston Waterfront Innovation District steering group to develop and educate on the “value proposition” for investors, innovative businesses and social enterprises who wish to establish themselves in a dynamic, mixed residential, clean tech, high quality-of-life district along the bank of the Great Cataraqui River.
- Organize an annual Mayor’s State of Poverty Dinner fund-raiser, with proceeds that will go to hire a specialized Anti-Poverty Social Worker. This individual will report directly to the Mayor’s office on the state of homelessness in the city and on the effectiveness of community anti-poverty and end-to-homelessness strategies.
- Incentivize “Smart Growth” development that discourages low-density, sprawl-type development on the urban fringe and encourages environmental and financial sustainability. The infrastructure building costs and municipal servicing fees that would be avoided because of this initiative will significantly pay back – on the capital budget bottom line – the municipal portion cost of the Third Crossing over a number of decades. This incentivized development scheme could take the form of deferred development charges for two years to help builders with their cash flow.
- Ensure Kingston is on track to achieve its greenhouse gas emissions targets by expanding active transportation opportunities, enhancing renewable energy and energy conservation initiatives, smart land use development, expanded tree planting and other measures.
- Support Kingston’s agricultural community and local foods movement by championing the establishment of a “local food hub” that would function as a storage and distribution centre to assist local region farms in the marketing, logistics and transportation of locally produced food to better supply Kingston buyers. In addition, the “local food hub” would provide education and recruitment initiatives to encourage young farmers.
- Dialogue with the leaders of each post-secondary institution and with local federal and provincial government representatives, to explore areas of municipal/post-secondary co-operation and excellence. For example, partnering to establish an International Centre of Excellence in Municipal Climate Change Adaptation Technology and Practices.”

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