

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, October 7, 2016

**Why We Must Address Crime Head On**

This week, we were reminded of the impact of violent crime on our city. SWAT team. Shots fired. Schools evacuated. Front page news.

Don Atchison's response? No comment. Perhaps he felt the incident was exaggerated. After all, he is on record as recently as this campaign saying that Saskatoon's crime problem is due to over-reporting of incidents. He is contradicting our police chief, Clive Weighill, who has said that "We've seen an increase in the drug trade... Theft of vehicles, theft from vehicles, it's been a really hard city to police this last while."

"We need to address our crime problem head-on", says Kelley Moore, candidate for mayor in the October 26 municipal election. "That's why my platform on crime and safety was one of my first releases (on September 14)."

**A Mayor's Task Force on Crime and Safety**

"As mayor, in my first 90 days in office I will strike a Mayor's Task Force on Crime and Safety in Saskatoon", says Moore. "My goal is to give this issue the attention it deserves, or else we'll never make progress. We have to stop sweeping it under the rug."

**Why a Task Force?**

"We need to work together to make Saskatoon safe for everyone again", says Moore. "The first step is acknowledging that we have a problem. Our community is not over-reporting crime, city hall is under-committing to stop crime!"

Although crime rates have fallen across the country in recent years, Saskatoon's national rankings have not. Under Don Atchison and Charlie Clark, both of whom serve on the Police Board, Saskatoon remains one of the top cities in Canada for both violent and non-violent crime according to national reports. "They are not providing leadership on this issue. That is not acceptable", says Moore.

The Task Force will be comprehensive, assembling stakeholders and specialists. It will acknowledge root causes of crime such as poverty and drug addictions. It will work with Police. It will support front-line workers. It will involve community associations, non-profits and other neighbourhood groups. Its findings will be a blueprint for solving the problem.

"It's time for our community to set some clear goals for reducing crime. We need to understand what we're doing, and what we should be doing differently", says Moore. "The status quo cannot continue."

"As we enter the Thanksgiving long weekend with our friends and families, we need confidence that our government is taking its top job seriously. That job is providing a safe Saskatoon for everyone. I will make this my number one priority."

Moore represents a clear-thinking alternative to the incumbents. A professional planner. An experienced senior administrator. A business owner. A new action-oriented vision for our city.

For more information or to discuss this further with Kelley please contact: Campaign Manager Sara Wheelwright or Campaign Coordinator Haven Rees | 306-291-5303 or 291-4449.

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