

EXCERPTS FROM NORTHWOOD CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 18, 2023

RE: Open Forum & New Business

Councilor Davies (Ward 1 - Downtown & Historic District): "...and I must once again raise the issue of the downtown revitalization. Our heritage buildings are a draw for tourism, but the crumbling sidewalks and outdated public lighting are an embarrassment. We need to invest in the aesthetic and economic heart of our city."

Councilor Chen (Ward 3 - Northern Suburbs): "While I appreciate Councilor Davies' focus on downtown, my constituents are dealing with repeated water main breaks. We had three major breaks on Maple Avenue alone this summer. People are tired of boil water advisories and flooded basements. We must prioritize the replacement of our aging water infrastructure. It's a public health and safety issue."

Councilor Rodriguez (Ward 4 - West End Developments): "My ward has the fastest-growing population of young families in the city. They moved here for the quality of life, but we have a severe shortage of recreational facilities. The West End needs a new community park and sports fields. This is an investment in our community's well-being and future growth."

Councilor Peterson (At-Large, Finance Committee Chair): "We hear these requests. They are all valid. But our latest forecast shows that our debt servicing costs will exceed 15% of our operating budget within three years if we continue borrowing at the current rate. We cannot afford everything. We need a framework for making tough choices based on city-wide priorities, not just who shouts the loudest."