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CITY OF *Caldwell, Idaho*

STATEMENT FROM THE MAYOR OF CALDWELL

Over the past weeks Mr. Jim Hollis in his efforts to recall myself and several city council members, has shared excessive amounts of false and inaccurate information and it is time that people hear the facts. Mr. Hollis claims that his petition is in large part due to the support given to our current police chief by myself and the four council members listed on his recall. I will not address details regarding our police chief as those are personnel matters and he deserves the respect for those to not be discussed. However, I can state that the facts are that every allegation made was investigated and there were no findings of any illegal activities that took place. This has also been verified by a separate investigation done by the Idaho State Police. Another fact is that EVERY council member stood up and supported our Chief at a press conference that was held when these allegations became public, and not just the four that are on the recall petition.

In a recent article, Mr. Kent Marmon is quoted as saying "They (the city) lost over \$1.2 million in a developer scheme", referencing an increase to impact fees that had not been accounted for. Mr. Marmon's accusation that this was a 'scheme' is completely and utterly false and shows a blatant disregard for the truth from an elected official. The facts are that this oversight was over several years and became noticeable when Impact Fees were recently increased. That oversight was investigated and found to be human error with the new fees not being accurately reflected. Since then, safeguards were put in place to ensure this does not happen again in the future.

Mr. Hollis also cites disagreement with council/mayor decisions regarding land use proposals. While it is true that development requests Mr. Hollis is opposed to have been approved, the facts are that elected officials must make decisions they feel are in the best interest of their community. Not everyone agrees with those decisions, and that is understandable and expected. However, if every citizen asked for a recall of an elected official that made a decision they disagreed with, every elected official would be up for a recall at some point in their term. That is why elections exist, so that if citizens are not pleased with their elected officers, they have the opportunity to either run for office themselves or vote for someone they feel better represents them. Mr. Hollis also states that his recall includes individuals he finds to not be responsive. However, the facts are that my office reached out to Mr. Hollis several months ago to discuss his concerns, he however refused to meet.

While Mr. Hollis states that he 'is ashamed of Caldwell', I am not. I grew up in Caldwell, I've seen Caldwell at its very worst and now I get to experience Caldwell at its very best. Caldwell has never thrived more than it is today. At the heart of our success is the development within our community. The new shopping centers, industrial lands, and the thousands of new jobs is due to the growth we are experiencing. Those of us that have lived here over 30 years know what Caldwell was like when there was no growth and we do not want to go back to those times. We continue to implement smart growth strategies to retain the special charm and feel that makes Caldwell so special.

In regards to issues about the new hotel and loss of parking, I have been working actively with Canyon County, the County Fair, the College of Idaho, and the Caldwell Night Rodeo to provide even more parking for their fans than ever before. The city has already begun making preparations for those new parking areas for those events.

In conclusion, I would encourage anyone to take the time to learn about the issues and gather the facts rather than listening to the voice that is simply yelling the loudest. God gave us twice as many ears as mouths for a reason, we need to start listening instead of just yelling.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jarom Wagoner

"The Treasure of the Valley"