



*Commentary*

*by:*

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## **Community Involvement**

*Councilmember – Mesquite District  
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Community involvement is a familiar phrase to most of us. We hear it on the radio, read about it in the paper, and see it on the news. This type of involvement can come in many forms - giving voice to your opinions, the written word or through your vote.

The reality is, however, that the majority of citizens aren't involved in their community. They don't volunteer and they aren't actively working to bring about the change they wish to see. Considering this, we can't be surprised to see things not going as we would like.

As we embark on a new year, I find myself thinking about the future goals of our community and how I am involved. Seven years ago I decided that I wanted to run for City Council because I wanted to contribute to my hometown. I had a vision of the place I wanted my children to grow up in and I knew that I needed to get involved if I was to see that happen.

Transformation doesn't happen without action on the part of someone who cared enough to get moving. Change requires a leader to come forward with the intuition and vision to see the project through.

So, we have to ask ourselves where we want to be in the next ten or twenty years and determine how we are going to get there.

These are questions that we can all be asking ourselves. Community action is about working alongside your neighbors to accomplish a common goal. This type of camaraderie is what our nation is founded upon and is needed more than ever, in a quickly evolving world.

Over the next few months, I challenge you to become involved in your community to help bring forth a positive change. Whatever your passion may be: education, public safety, job creation, homelessness, etc. There are numerous groups available within the City of Peoria to help you become involved. Your participation may take on many forms: hands on volunteer work, letter writing, phone calls, etc. No matter your talent or skill, you can make a difference.

For volunteer opportunities within the City of Peoria, please contact me at 623-773-7306.