



News Release

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Mayor McAdams Seeks To Be Taxpayers' Voice On Prison Relocation Board

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In his keynote address at the League of Women Voters annual luncheon, Mayor Ben McAdams announced his desire to serve as an appointee on the Prison Relocation and Development Authority (PRADA). The prison is currently located in southwest Salt Lake County and decisions about its future will have significant and long-lasting impacts on county residents.

"If we're investing nearly one billion dollars of taxpayer money, we need an inclusive and collaborative discussion about how to best address all the issues involved with moving the prison," said Mayor McAdams.

Governor Herbert is in the process of determining his appointees to PRADA. Mayor McAdams says he is needed on the board so he may be an advocate for county residents.

"Salt Lake County taxpayers deserve to have an elected watchdog to evaluate the wisdom of any investment made on their behalf. As a member of PRADA, I will let data, not private developers drive the decision," said Mayor McAdams. "Given the importance of PRADA's work and its significant and lasting impact on Salt Lake County in particular, I strongly believe that residents of this County should have a voice on PRADA," the mayor continued.

Mayor McAdams expressed concerns that while earlier meetings were open, the public needs more information on all the factors driving this discussion.

At the luncheon, the mayor also talked about the county's recent agreement with Draper City for a Community Development Area (CDA) that will boost economic development opportunities countywide. Mayor McAdams is committed to being leader in regional planning.

The mayor considered three primary questions when investigating the county's involvement in the Draper CDA:

1. Will the economic activity result in job growth?
2. What is the return on taxpayer investment?
3. Is the process transparent, open and accountable?

Mayor McAdams will consider these same three questions in his evaluation of the prison relocation.

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