

**City of Racine, Wisconsin  
Office of the Mayor**



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**For IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Joint Statement on Filling Vacant Aldermanic Seat**

*Mayor Mason and President Meekma Outline Process Moving Forward*

“This has been a difficult time for the City of Racine. We still mourn the loss of Alderman DeHahn and are in many ways still in disbelief that he is no longer with us. However, President Meekma and I have sought counsel with the City Attorney, and recognize that we need to begin a process to make sure the people of the 7<sup>th</sup> district have representation. But make no mistake about, while we need to fill Ray’s seat, there is no replacing Ray DeHahn,” said Mayor Mason.

According to the City Attorney, Wisconsin Statute section 17.23(1)(a) sets forth the procedure for filling a vacancy in an aldermanic seat. The statutes outline that vacancies in aldermanic seats are filled by a city’s Common Council, and because of timing in proximity to the next spring election, a special election is not required. To keep consistent with past practice, it has been determined that the Racine City Clerk will solicit letters of interest and resumes from eligible persons living in the 7<sup>th</sup> aldermanic district. Documents will be due to the City Clerk’s office by October 31, 2018. The Committee of the Whole will meet to interview the interested candidates on November 13, 2018. The Committee of the Whole will then make a recommendation to the Common Council, which thereafter will vote on such recommendation. Any appointment, if made, would be to fill the remainder of Alderman DeHahn’s term, which ends in April 2019.

“It is important that we stay consistent with past practice when we need to fill a vacant seat. With that said, we are usually filling the seat of someone who is choosing to retire. We lost an excellent public servant and an even better man in Ray DeHahn with his passing. The Common Council will do our due diligence to make sure that whomever we appoint is well qualified to follow in Ray’s footsteps,” said Common Council President Jason Meekma.

All eligible applicants should submit a letter of interest and a resume to the Office of the Clerk at [Tara.Coolidge@cityofracine.org](mailto:Tara.Coolidge@cityofracine.org) or mail to Attention: City Clerk, 730 Washington Ave, Rm 103, Racine, WI 53403. Questions should be directed to the City Clerk’s Office at 262.636.9171

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