

Sunday, March 01, 2009

To: Crystal Lake Chamber Members

Having owned and operated a successful business for 35 years in Crystal Lake, I think I bring a perspective that is needed by the business community. I understand and have a "hands on" feel for your interests.

During my ten years on the City Council I have made a point of regularly attending chamber functions, grand openings and community events. I consider this to be part of my job, as a sitting council member, to be a visible, liaison to the City Hall if needed. I have listened to small business issues and helped solve them before growing into large ones.

I have been supportive of the business climate in Crystal Lake since my term on the Economic Development Committee; with that background in mind I have actively worked to assist retention of existing businesses while encouraging new ones.

I endorse the new appointment of James Richter as "man on the street". He will be soliciting new business to the city and is a good example of the city working as a partner with the development of a future, greater Crystal Lake.

A big part of that future is the three new T.I.F. districts recently voted into existence. With the dramatic success of the Downtown T.I.F., I believe we are on the cusp of a grand revitalization. The addition of Vulcan Lakes, Virginia Street and Main St T.I.F.'s will have a major, positive impact if managed right. I am proud to have been a part of that voting and hope to be among those to help guide their success to Crystal Lake's future.

I believe I have shown my support to business and economic development in my time and voting record on the City Council. I have the experience and hope for the opportunity to continue it.

Sincerely,

Ralph Dawson