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**JOHNSON TO USE SALARY TO FUND GED CLASSES AT
JEFFERSON TERRACE**

Understands that education equals opportunity for a better life

Scott Johnson, candidate for Mayor of Saratoga Springs, today made a pledge to use his Mayoral salary to fund GED classes at the Jefferson and Vanderbilt Terraces, the neighborhood where he was raised by his divorced mother as a young boy. The salary would go toward program expenses that would be held at the Ford Community Center.

“Growing up in the Terrace, I witnessed firsthand how difficult it can be for many single parent mothers, or those with limited education, to escape economic hard times and provide a better life for their families,” said Johnson. “My mother was educated and worked as hard as anyone to provide for myself and my three brothers and sister, and did a fine job. It was her work ethic, and belief in the importance of education, that I built my life around and have passed onto my son.”

While Saratoga Springs is generally seen as a very prosperous City, there are some segments of the City where residents are economically strapped and may be limited in how far they can advance or provide for their families. “During my door to door campaigning every household in the Terraces, I met many single mothers who said they could really use a better and less difficult way of getting a GED”, said Johnson. The Terraces are one such area that Johnson is very familiar with. The classes would provide the education they need, while at the same time alleviating problems that exist from a lack of transportation and having to spend long time away from their children to commute to and from classes.

“For various reasons, whether it be family issues or personal problems, some people are not able to graduate high school and get their diploma,” added Johnson. “Unfortunately, until they get that diploma or pass the GED, there is a ceiling that limits how successful they can be in their lives. Hopefully, this program can level the playing field for some and, in turn, help our entire City.”

If people can’t get to the classes, Johnson wants to bring the classes to them. His vision for Saratoga Springs includes raising the quality of life for all residents, but he wants to start with those who need the most help. This is part of Johnson’s vision for a new direction for Saratoga Springs.

“I come from a very modest background,” explained Johnson. “However, I know that education is the key to advancing and being able to provide for one’s family. I’m sure that this program will be enormously successful.”

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