

Statement by Mayoral Candidate Roger Caranci

'Decade Developments CEO is Fanshawe College Board Member and Matt Brown's Campaign Chairperson'

I was quite taken aback to read a report from the September 5th 2014 edition of the online Metro London news, outlining details of a fundraising event to be held at the Kingsmill downtown building for Mayoral candidate Matt Brown.

A large focus of the Mayoral race is integrity and trust. Agreeing to, promoting and arranging this fundraiser shows a glaring lack of judgment on behalf of Matt Brown and his campaign team.

To say the optics surrounding this fundraiser are poor is an understatement. At worst this could be interpreted as a 'quid pro quo' arrangement and at best could be viewed as disrespectful of taxpayers. Are these types of arrogant, divisive ideas what we can expect if Mr Brown was to become Mayor?

The fact that Mr. Brown's campaign chairperson, long time city developer, Mr. Robert Siskind (<http://goo.gl/NCTUly>) also sits on the board of governors at Fanshawe College raises further concern. (<http://goo.gl/yQS9zb>)

Was Mr. Brown's support of this project about doing what's best for the city, or was it about doing what's best for his own political interests?

I believe that the Fanshawe-Kingsmill's project has the potential to be a victory for the City of London, but I also recognize it was a deeply divisive and highly polarizing debate -- not just at City Hall, but at dinner tables and places of work.

If we're truly "better together," the optics of holding a partisan political fundraiser at the building which became the focal point of this debate -- the Kingsmill's building -- only widens the existing divide and creates more resentment.

Councillor Brown has in the last week conveniently overlooked the fact that his lack of leadership failed to secure this deal for Fanshawe College in the first place. If it wasn't for the dedicated work of the Downtown Business Association and many engaged citizens this proposal would never have found itself back in front of council.

London is at a crossroads. We have a clear choice. Strong focused and determined leadership or self-interested leadership with dubious judgment prone to outside influence.

I call on Matt Brown to immediately relocate this event and apologize to the taxpayers of London.

For comment please contact 519-933-6198