



Longtime Clearwater resident and community leader Jared Leone became the first candidate to file to run for City Council, Seat 3, on Thursday.

Leone has shown an unwavering commitment to the community for many years through leading the city of Clearwater's Environmental Advisory Board, working with neighbors to form a neighborhood group and his volunteer service raising guide dog puppies in training.

"Service to the community has been a guiding force in my life, and it's that commitment that motivates me to run for Clearwater City Council," Leone said. "By working with residents, businesses and stakeholders, I wholeheartedly believe we can make our community even more vibrant, sustainable and welcoming for everyone."

Through his leadership on the city's Environmental Advisory Board, Leone has influenced policy in reviving GreenPrint, the city's dormant plan for sustainability and resiliency. That includes advocating for a sustainability coordinator and leading the charge to reduce single-use plastic waste.

Leone also formed the Spring Branch Neighborhood Association in 2018 with neighbors. He has worked hand in hand with the city to recognize State Street Park, securing \$700,000 for enhancements and removing nearly 5,000 pounds of trash from the park and surrounding areas.

With that service at heart, Leone has also raised five guide dog puppies in training for Southeastern Guide Dogs.

Leone also serves as vice president of the Keep Pinellas Beautiful executive board and is secretary of the Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition.

Leone has a master's degree from the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida and an associate's degree from St. Petersburg College.

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