



Jared Leone could be first Clearwater city councilmember of Jewish descent

CLEARWATER, Fla. – Never in the nearly 110-year history of Clearwater has the city had a member of Jewish descent serve on the City Council. That could change on March 19.

Jared Leone, candidate for City Council, Seat 3, had his bar mitzvah at Congregation Beth Shalom (1995) and is a March of the Living (2000) alumni who vows to bring commonsense and accountability to the City Council. Leone is devoted to representing Judaism faithfully such as his participation in the recent World Wide Wrap tefillin event.

“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 in digital journalism from the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Florida.

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