

Hello, my name is Jay Downs, and I have lived in Smithfield my whole life. Michelle and I have raised our family of five children here in Smithfield. During this time, I have had the privilege of serving the citizens of Smithfield for 35 years in the fire service and for 28 of those years as Fire Chief. I just recently retired and would love to continue to serve the citizens by using the knowledge and skills that I have gained over the years to the betterment of the community and its citizens. I reside on the west side of the city. As a citizen I believe that all areas of the city should be represented on the city council. I am sensitive to the specific needs and would be proud to represent the citizens on the west side and center areas of the city to ensure the needs are addressed and met. By leveraging my experience, we can work towards addressing challenges and ensuring that our community's growth benefits all Smithfield Citizens.

In my position as Fire Chief, I have managed budgets and feel it is extremely important to be fiscally responsible, and will work within the city budgets to bring fiscal responsibility to all city budgets and taxes. As Fire Chief I was contracted by Cache County as the County EMS Coordinator. This position provided experience and knowledge in County and Logan City operations and politics. I feel this experience and knowledge will be useful in the operations and growth of Smithfield City. I attended numerous County and City council meetings where I participated in city and county government.

Our community has experienced a lot of growth over the past five years. With this growth, Fire, EMS, and Police responses have grown. Numerous roads and water lines have been added. My concern is with this growth, essential services of Fire, EMS, Police, and Public works also need to grow to meet the current and future needs.

Growth in the City is inevitable, but controlled growth is the key. It is vital to manage this growth while considering the requirements that the state of Utah puts on its communities regarding high-density and low-income housing. This entails strategic planning and zoning to ensure that our community expands sustainably, balancing the economic diversity and well-being of all its residents. Our community has experienced several large housing developments. State laws and local laws are going to allow growth within our community. The question is how that growth is going to occur and how to control it. High-density developments and MPC's can be problematic and need to be controlled. Local ordinances that allow these and where they will be allowed need to be evaluated and changed as needed.

One of the items I feel strongly about is the public having access and communication with city council members. At this time there appears to be a disconnect with the Mayor and the City Council. It is essential that adhering to the City Ordinances on the operations of the Mayor and City council are met and followed. City Council members represent the citizens and need to know the concerns of the citizens in order to make decisions that affect us as a community. Communication with City council members during council meetings should be allowed and encouraged. If elected I will work towards addressing these and any other issues affecting the city and strive for the betterment of the city and its citizens.

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions or concerns at jayddowns2023@gmail.com