

Madore won't seek reelection in Salem's Ward 2

Historic Salem board president pulls papers to run for councilor

By DUSTIN LUCA
Staff Writer

SALEM — Now there are three City Council seats completely up for grabs.

Ward 2 City Councilor Christine Madore has announced she does not plan to seek a third term representing downtown Salem and its bordering historical neighborhoods. With that, a candidate with civic experience in the city has emerged in Caroline Watson-Felt, a Beacon Street resident who pulled papers to run Tuesday afternoon.

Candidates have until

Friday, July 23, to pull nomination papers to run for office. They're due by Tuesday, July 27, at 5 p.m.

Madore said her choice to not seek a third term was "definitely not an easy decision, but I feel good about it. It's the right one." In her two terms, Madore said, she fought to elevate conversations around affordable housing and transportation.

"I feel good about being able to have some constructive dialogue around those issues and be successful in bringing in more resources to support those causes," Madore said. "It's been a

good journey, but I'm ready to move on and hand over the job to the next councilor."

Ward 2 is known for its diverse demographics, encompassing most of downtown Salem with the historic Salem Common and McIntire neighborhoods on either end.

"The next Ward 2 councilor really needs to take this job seriously," Madore said. "This job doesn't deserve a part-time effort."

Watson-Felt is executive director of the Woman's Friend Society, president of Historic Salem's Board of Directors, and a member of Salem's Affordable Housing

Trust Fund Board.

"Ward 2 is really broadly diverse and really, highly active and needs a dynamic and strong advocate, especially at this time when Salem is in another period of change and growth," Watson-Felt said. "I'm really looking forward to getting to know more of my neighbors, listening to them, hearing what their priorities are and hopefully earning their vote."

Madore is the third councilor, after Ward 5 Councilor Josh Turiel and Ward 4 Councilor Tim Flynn, to announce they will not seek reelection this year.



Caroline Watson-Felt, a Beacon Street resident, has pulled papers to run for the Ward 2 City Council seat in Salem. The ward's current two-term councilor, Christine Madore, won't seek a third term.

Courtesy Photo