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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Chris Wharton launches campaign for Salt Lake City Council District 3

SALT LAKE CITY, UT - Chris Wharton, progressive activist and leading LGBTQ attorney, announced his candidacy for Salt Lake City Council District 3 on Thursday, March 30, 2017.

Chris enters the race with the endorsement of Salt Lake County Council member Arlyn Bradshaw, whose district overlaps many of the same areas. "Chris is the perfect successor for Stan Penfold," says Bradshaw. "He will build on Stan's legacy and represent this district with distinction."

Chris believes the most pressing issues for the district are:

- Preservation of the unique character of the Avenues, Marmalade, and Capitol Hill neighborhoods.
- Neighborhood safety, including the need for more community policing to prevent property crime.
- Sustainable use of natural resources and protecting environmental quality.

Chris first entered politics when former Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker appointed Chris, then a law school student, to the Salt Lake City Human Rights Commission. Mayor Becker re-appointed Chris to a second term during which Chris served as Chair of the Human Rights Commission. Salt Lake City's trailblazing non-discrimination ordinance was passed during Chris' tenure on the Human Rights Commission.

Chris has long been a champion for civil rights and LGBTQ equality. He served as the Vice-Chair of the Utah Pride Center and helped lead a nationwide coalition of LGBTQ organizations to file an amicus brief at the U.S. Supreme Court calling for equal treatment under the law for LGBTQ families. He has also served on Equality Utah's Legal Panel.

Chris is a member of the Utah Bar Commission and last year served as President of the Young Lawyers Division of the Utah State Bar. Chris founded a downtown law firm that has obtained precedent-setting results for its LGBTQ clients. Chris also represented several members of the Capitol 13, including Equality Utah executive director Troy Williams.

Chris is a fourth generation resident of Utah's Capitol City and has deep roots in the greater Avenues neighborhood. He lives in the lower Avenues with his husband.

Chris earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Westminster College before receiving his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law.

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