



Mount Vernon

An Innovative Community; Authentically Hometown

NEWS ALERT: Flags Lowered in Memory of Josh Kirby

Served on Mount Vernon City Council in 2022

MOUNT VERNON, April 11, 2024 – Mayor Matthew Starr has directed that American and State flags located on City property be lowered to half mast on Thursday, April 11, 2024 and Friday, April 12, 2024, in memory of former Mount Vernon City Council Person Josh Kirby, who died on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 of brain cancer. Josh was 47 years old.

Josh, a native of Laconia, N.H., made Mount Vernon his home in 2004. He was elected as a Council Person representing the First Ward in 2021, replacing Samantha Scoles.

Josh took office on Jan. 1, 2022. A few months into his term he was diagnosed with a rare brain cancer, but continued to attend Council meetings to the best of his ability. Josh finally had to resign from his position on Oct. 20, 2022 for health reasons. James Mahan was appointed as First Ward Council Person on November 4, 2022, and continues to serve in that elected position.

“It is with great sadness that I learned yesterday of the death of Josh Kirby. Josh fought a courageous battle against brain cancer for the past two years, and I have been praying for him and his family during this ordeal,” said Council President Bruce Hawkins.

“He was a real leader in this community, and during his short stint on City Council he left a message to the rest of Council about his caring attitude and love for this community. He was a great family member, businessman and an asset to this community,” Hawkins continued.

“The courage and determination that Josh exhibited after receiving his diagnosis were a lesson and inspiration to us all,” said Mayor Matthew Starr. “He has left us much too soon, and our prayers go out to his family and loved ones. He will truly be missed.”

Josh is survived by his wife, Missy, and their three sons, Wyatt, Logan and Tucker. The family is having a private graveside funeral with burial to follow, and asks that people, in lieu of flowers, consider donating to www.stachestrong.org, a non-profit organization that supports brain cancer research.

END

ABOUT THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON:

The City of Mount Vernon is an innovative community with an authentic hometown feel. The City is dedicated to providing modern services with an emphasis on continual improvement, customer service and equitable laws that support our citizens and visitors, while retaining and attracting investors in our community. Home to 17,000 people, Mount Vernon is the county seat for Knox County and boasts historic buildings and districts as well as business and professional, educational and recreational opportunities through many adaptive reuses of the community’s infrastructure and spaces. The City has strong ties to higher education, with Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Kenyon College and Central Ohio Technical College operating satellite locations in the historic downtown. Located 40 miles northeast of Columbus, Mount Vernon is near the geographic center of Ohio and has connections all over the globe.

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