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Owasso Chamber of Commerce

Supports passage of ½ penny sales tax

The Owasso Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors recently passed a resolution supporting the passage of a ½ penny city sales tax increase scheduled to go before Owasso voters on January 13, 2015.

Chamber president, Gary Akin, stated, "the passage of this initiative will underwrite the advancement of three indispensable components for advancing our city—a strong police force, an exceptional fire department, and city roadway improvements."

Akin continued, "Owasso is in a unique position to continue its successful growth in the areas of job creation, residential development, retail growth, and restaurant expansions. Commercial investments and homeownership values appreciate in times of successful community growth. Let us be very aware that providing core city services is paramount in achieving quality growth. Why is the passage of this tax initiative so important? First, new and existing residents must feel safe on our streets, in our businesses, and in their homes. Additionally, we are a regional destination point for retail shoppers—our visitors must feel safe. Second, citizens must be confident in receiving quick emergency responses for fire and medical services utilizing state-of-the-art equipment from highly qualified personnel. Third, city streets and corridors must compliment Owasso's quality neighborhoods, this is essential for increasing our property value and eliciting community pride.

Owasso is now Oklahoma's thirteenth largest city. Owasso High School is the fourth largest high school in the state. Rejoice Christian School is in the midst of a massive \$50 million expansion. We're proud to have Tulsa Tech and Tulsa Community College serving our educational needs. Residential developments are opening and expanding. Churches are expanding throughout our city, and we're served by two state of the art hospitals.

We are proud of our past, but we must be prepared for our future. The Chamber supports local businesses, advocates for quality growth, and promotes an enhanced quality of life for all citizens of Owasso. The chamber believes the city is led by a very competent administration and department heads, and is efficient in their operations. Therefore, we support the passage of this ½ penny tax increase (*the first sales tax increase in 30 years*) and encourage the voters to VOTE YES on January 13, 2015."