

The Suburban

Brownstein has unanimous council support

By Joel Goldenberg
The Suburban

Councillor Mitchell Brownstein has announced that he will be running for the mayoralty of Côte St. Luc early next year, to replace now-Mount Royal MP Anthony Housefather.

"I worked extremely closely with Anthony these past 10 years and I believe together with our most talented council, we can continue to build one of the most desirable communities in which to live," Brownstein says.

Brownstein has the support of Housefather and all seven of his council colleagues, including Allan Levine, who withdrew his own candidacy for the mayoralty.

"It is very important to me that Cote St.

Luc remain a city that empowers and encourages each council member to succeed in their areas while having a mayor that can unite the council and create consensus, ensuring the best services are delivered to residents," Housefather said in a prepared statement. "I have worked closely with Mitchell as leaders of the demerger movement and on council for the last 10 years and Mitchell is that man. The fact that so many other talented council members who also could have been excellent candidates support Mitchell is testament to his abilities."

Brownstein was on council from 1990 to 2001 and returned after demerger took place in 2005. He was acclaimed in the 2009 and 2013 elections, and was a demerger leader in

Côte St. Luc. "For the past 10 years we have seen the benefits of demerger, which allows for direct taxation, control over our unions, our infrastructures, emergency medical services, and so much more," said Brownstein.

His portfolios have included parks and recreation and public works, and he founded the Côte St. Luc Dramatic Society, co-chaired the Aquatic and Community Centre Development Project and was a pioneer of the Fun Card concept.

Each remaining council member issued a statement of support for Brownstein.

Côte St. Luc council passed a resolution at Monday night's council meeting asking the Quebec Municipal Affairs ministry to allow the mayoral by-election to take place on Sun-

day, April 10, 2016. A notice announcing the by-election will be placed by the city's returning officer in early December.

Normally, the by-election has to take place four months after a council vacancy is announced — that announcement was made at the Nov. 9 council meeting.

Council's resolution asks for the extension because of the "numerically substantial" senior population in the city who stay in Florida from December to March, and return in April.

"It is in the best interests of the city to maximize the democratic process and voter turnout by including as many of these seniors as possible in the by-election process," the resolution adds.

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Twice monthly

V7 (11D)

November 24, 2015

FREE PRESS

NDG
Hampstead
Côte St. Luc

Levine bows out of mayoral race as Brownstein officially declares his candidacy

By ISAAC OLSON

On November 16, Councillor Allan Levine issued a press release saying he is bowing out of the mayoral race and later that day Councillor Mitchell Brownstein made his candidacy official through a press release of his own — a press release declaring the entire Côte St. Luc council is unanimously supporting his election bid.

Brownstein's press release states, "Anthony Housefather stepped down as mayor recently after being elected as the Member

of Parliament for Mount Royal. Housefather has endorsed Brownstein for mayor as have all seven other members of council."

The press release notes that Brownstein is an attorney by profession and has served on city council from 1990 to 2001. He then joined Housefather, Ruth Kovac and Glenn Nashen as a co-chair of the successful demerger movement that won the 2004 referendum to reconstitute the city of Côte St. Luc and returned to council in the 2005 election. He was re-elected by acclamation

in 2009 and 2013. The press release goes on to quote Housefather and members of the council that they all throw their political weight behind his bid for mayor.

"For the past 10 years we have seen the benefits of demerger, which allows for direct taxation, control over our unions, our infrastructures, emergency medical services, and so much more," states Brownstein in the release. "Through Anthony Housefather's portfolio system, each one of the councillors has excelled in their areas of expertise pursuing their passions to the benefit of the city. I worked extremely closely with Anthony these past

10 years and I believe together with our most talented council we can continue to build one of the most desirable communities in which to live."

In Levine's press release, which was released just a few hours before Brownstein's, he writes, "As I focus on my priorities representing my district and the city, I will not seek the mayoralty. Councillor Mitchell Brownstein is announcing his declaration to run for mayor, and I intend to fully support him in his campaign. I have worked alongside Councillor Brownstein, and I believe together we can lead Côte St. Luc in the right direction."