

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

At Thursday night's North Rapid Civic Association Candidate Forum, Ron Sasso, a candidate for Ward 5 City Council, received criticism of his "energy." The criticism came from a private conversation that he had shared with one of his opponents. In that conversation Sasso noted that he likely did not have as much "energy" as that particular opponent.

Approximately a year and half ago Sasso had been diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease, systemic scleroderma.

Sasso responded to the criticism directly. While smiling he stated, "I'm not dead yet!" That brought laughter from the audience. Sasso then went on to explain that even though he does not have as much energy as he had prior to the autoimmune disease he is still capable of running a mile under seven minutes and will be running the Deadwood-Mickelson Trail Half Marathon next week. Sasso recently won the Wellfully Stampede Grand Master Division in the 10K race. He noted that he has more than enough heart and energy for the job of City Alderman.

Sasso also noted that even though the disease may attack his body, it does not attack the brain.

Sasso has been open about his health as he tries to raise awareness for the rare autoimmune disease.

"If I can turn an attack into something positive that will help more people, then I will."

During his campaign, Sasso had hoped to raise awareness for scleroderma---a rare autoimmune disease that affects approximately 300,000 people in the United States. Sasso was diagnosed with the very rare systemic form of the disease to start 2016. The course and severity of the disease varies significantly from person to person.

Sasso has founded the Black Hills Scleroderma Support Group with the help of the Scleroderma Foundation. The group meets the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30PM at the Rapid City Public Library. Sasso served on the City Council from 2011-2013. During his term in office, Sasso brought forward changes to improve the quality of every road that is built in Rapid City. He is Realtor with Coldwell Banker Lewis-Kirkeby-Hall and holds a Master's degree in counseling.

Sasso, 52, lives in Hall subdivision with his wife of 24 years, Sue (who is an artist), and three children, Soren , age 20, Seger, age 17 and Story, age 14. For more information about Sasso, please visit www.ronsasso.com.

Ron Sasso
3903 Hall Street
Rapid City, SD 57702
Cell# 605-593-3759
Website: www.ronsasso.com
<Sasso---pronounced Sass-oh>