

For Immediate Release

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BTF ENDORSES BROWN - WHYTE

Phil Rumore, President of the 3700 – member Buffalo Teachers Federation, today announced that the BTF had endorsed Mayor Byron Brown and Erie County Legislator Maria Whyte in the September primaries.

The BTF viewed these as the only primary races it would become involved in due to their importance to education.

“We are proud to endorse Mayor Brown in the primary as he has shown leadership in these very difficult times.

Mayor Brown has increased funding for education, lowered property taxes (12.5% residential and 14.9% commercial), added over 100 police officers, created the position of Chief of School Safety in the Buffalo Police Department, continued to expand the Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program – just to name a few accomplishments.

But especially important, Mayor Brown has established an air of civility and thoughtfulness to city government, thus bringing down the level of divisiveness and hostility that too often flourishes in Buffalo Politics,” Rumore stated.

The much sought after BTF endorsement brings workers, phone banks, teachers whose opinion many respect and the votes of teachers and their families and friends who, studies show, get out and vote.

“We need more leaders like Mayor Brown who lead with sincerity, poise and intelligence, and who set a positive example for our students and community,” Rumore concluded.

The BTF endorsement of Maria Whyte came prior to Ralph Hernandez’s being eliminated as a candidate.

Rumore called Maria Whyte “one of our finest Legislators – a Legislator who has fought for a living wage, a planning board to bring long range planning to County Government and many other issues. If there is an issue that really helps people, Maria is there supporting it with passion,” Rumore concluded.

The BTF will make its endorsements for the general election in early October.
