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Gorena to challenge Tierney for council post

BY DAN EAKIN, Staff Writer

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20-year resident John Gorena filed Thursday to challenge Greg Tierney for his Place 1 seat on the city council in a post Tierney's been in since 2001.

Tierney filed last month to seek a fourth term in the May 10 city election.

Gorena, 46, is a member of the city's Transportation Board and has been attending city council meetings on a regular basis for the past several months. He is self employed as a computer repairman and Web site designer.

"As for my opponent, he is an acquaintance in the business community whom I would like to consider a friend," Gorena wrote, in an e-mail sent Friday to numerous people. "I think he is a really good guy, but we disagree on a few issues."

Gorena, a graduate of the University of North Texas, stated that Tierney had originally supported a plan to build a site for day laborers in Lewisville.

"To me, the council should have never even gone down this path," Gorena stated, noting the council has re-allocated money set aside for the site for other city needs.

Tierney said the proposed site for day laborers was never intended to be a place where illegal immigrants could go to find work.

"After we realized there would be a problem in deciphering between who was legal and who was illegal, the plan was abandoned," Tierney said.

Gorena has publicly spoken in favor of the city enforcing laws curtailing the influx of illegal immigrants into the city.

"(The term) 'illegal alien' is not a race (issue)," Gorena wrote. "Being of Hispanic heritage, I do not see this as a race issue. I am a Christian, American citizen, Texan and a longtime resident of Lewisville.

"Illegal aliens come from many different countries," he continued. "They are a major portion of the population that does not pay income taxes and uses our welfare system that should be for American citizens, who actually need it. Many illegal aliens also do not spend their money in the United States. There is a lot of money taken from this economy and sent to other countries."

In a telephone interview Friday, Gorena said he believes local police should be more involved in the enforcement of immigration laws.

"With stronger enforcement, our schools would have higher standards and there would not be so many people driving on the streets of our city without car insurance," he said.

In addition to the race between Gorena and Tierney, Lewisville citizens will be voting on May 10 to choose between Place 3 incumbent Lathan Watts and challenger David Fogle, and any others who may file before the deadline at 5 p.m. Monday.

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