Media release



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Robbie Nyaguy is Port Phillip's newest Councillor Elect after vote countback

Robbie Nyaguy is Port Phillip's newest Councillor Elect.

His election follows the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) recently running a vote countback to fill an extraordinary vacancy created in November when former Lake Ward Councillor Katherine Copsey was elected to the Victorian Parliament.

A former advisor to two Victorian Government ministers, Mr Nyaguy is in Canada on a short-term contract in the tourism sector. He is making arrangements to return to Australia shortly and will be working remotely until then.

Mr Nyaguy said it was a welcome but "unexpected shock" to suddenly become a Councillor about two years after the Council election.

"There's definitely a sense of excitement to join Port Phillip Council and have the opportunity to work on things I am passionate about. As the first Councillor born in the 1990s, I hope to bring a fresh energy to Council," he said.

"I'll initially focus on looking at the work already underway and try to provide useful feedback while being a conduit between Council and our community."

When campaigning in 2020, he named investment in essential community services and support for parks, gardens and tree-lined streets and local climate change action as his three top priorities.

Mr Nyaguy is also passionate about Council support for community housing and the library service.

"These priorities still stand. As a proud openly gay Councillor I will also be keen to help deliver on commitments for Port Phillip's LGBTIQA+ community, including the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan which is being developed."

Mr Nyaguy, who will be returning to his Middle Park home, is looking forward to bike rides, coffees at local cafes and plenty of foreshore walks with the family dog, Max, when back on his home turf.

"Port Phillip is a pretty magical place. It's exciting to live in such a vibrant and progressive city and to have the opportunity to serve the community and work with Councillors to push that legacy forward."

Mayor Heather Cunsolo said: "Councillors are looking forward to Robbie Nyaguy joining us as we continue to rollout our ambitious Council Plan. We've achieved some terrific milestones, including the FOGO rollout, but there's a lot of opportunities and challenges ahead as we hit the half-way mark of our four-year term."

Cr Cunsolo thanked Katherine Copsey for the ideas and enthusiasm she contributed as a councillor over the past six years.

"I am sure she will achieve great things in the Victorian Government, and we look forward to continuing to work together to support our community in Port Phillip."

Mr Nyaguy will officially be known as a Councillor after he has taken his Affirmation of Office remotely so he can start his mandatory Councillor training and participate in Council Meetings.

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