

# News

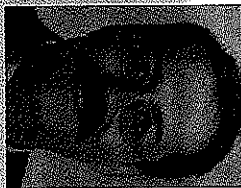
# Longtime councillor loses battle with cancer

**JENNIFER SMITH**  
Black News

**KELOWNA - Coun.**

Brian Given lost his battle with cancer Monday, leaving a legacy of dedication to the community that he served. Given was 57.

After statements by the city and Central Okanagan Regional District announcing his death, Mayor Sharon Shepherd spoke about the colleague she sat on council with for 10 years.



**Brian Given**

**Regional**

District announcing his death, Mayor Sharon Shepherd spoke about the colleague she sat on council with for 10 years.

"He had a significant impact in the community but could have had many more years if he hadn't had cancer," she said.

"CORR chairman Robert Hobson said he will remember Given for his evenhandedness, calling him someone whose counsel he always

took seriously. "It's always sad to lose people long before their time," he said. "Brian was always a strong believer in fairness...and he was good at weighing things.

When Brian spoke, his words had meaning... He spoke with clarity and passion and I know his words always had an impact."

Ron Mattuissi, City of Kelowna manager, believes Given commanded tremendous respect among city staff.

"He worked really hard for his constituents, but he also knew when to tell people, you know, you are being unreasonable," said Mattuissi.

"He always tried to solve problems, but it was never about blame. No matter what the issue was he would try to make his decision based on his principles," Given worked many years for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. He leaves behind his wife, local school trustee Gail Given, and three young children.

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