

Dear Tom,

I am submitting my resignation as mayor effective today (1/3/24). It will not come as a surprise, but I wanted to formalize it with this letter. As you are aware, I started a new job in July that does not allow me the time to attend to my duties as mayor. The last meeting that I attended was the Truth in Taxation meeting. I didn't feel it was the right time to make a goodbye speech, so I am taking this opportunity to do so. Please share this with the council, department heads, and city staff.

Being a council member and mayor had never been a goal of mine. I didn't run because I had an agenda. Like many people, I was talked into it by people who said I should do it and would be good at it. After much persuading, I decided to run and here I am fifteen years later. The thing I have enjoyed most about being mayor or a council member compared to other "political" positions is I never found it to be political. Every council member I worked with seemed to be doing it to give back to the community. Lately we have had fewer split votes, but in the years when we had many, there was never any animosity. People voted their conscience and if we voted on opposite sides of an issue, we remained colleagues and voted together on other votes. I believe I voted the opposite at least once with every council member I worked with yet maintained good working relationships.

As I look back at the big picture, the city is like every other entity. In my opinion, no matter what the program is that is being run, things are only as good as the people who are running them. Grand Rapids is so fortunate to have had administration, staff, and department heads that are second to none for a city our size. While I have worked most closely with department heads, I know the city employees are exceptional as well and have the best interest of the city and community in mind as they do their part to make Grand Rapids a great place to live. Please thank all of them for me on my behalf.

Grand Rapids is lucky to have so many people who step up to make it a better community. City government leadership is one way to do that but not the only way. We have thousands of people who serve on nonprofit boards, coach, or supervise their children's activities, belong to service clubs, volunteer, etc... In my new position, I am fortunate to be able to lead and facilitate people who are doing just that. I feel I am contributing to the community as much as when I was on the council and am grateful for the opportunity. It is good to have some occasional turnover in elected positions. I know there are many people as qualified or more qualified to do the job than I was. I have no doubt there will be a positive transition. If there is anything I can do to help with the transition or help staff with anything at all down the road, please reach out.

Finally, I thank the voters who trusted me to do what I have been doing for the past fifteen years.

Sincerely,

Dale Christy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dale Christy", written over the printed name.