



Benjamin Marentette <bmarente@traversecitymi.gov>

Resignation from the Commission

1 message

Michele Howard <mhoward@traversecitymi.gov>

Fri, Jun 28, 2019 at 1:22 PM

To: CityCommissioners_Group <citycommissioners@traversecitymi.gov>, Beth Milligan <beth.milligan@gmail.com>, Benjamin Marentette <bmarente@traversecitymi.gov>, Marty Colburn <mcolburn@traversecitymi.gov>, jtravis@record-eagle.com

Dear Mayor, fellow Commissioners, Mr. Colburn, and Mr. Marentette:

I am writing to submit my resignation from the City Commission effective September 23, 2019.

City Attorney Lauren Tribble-Laucht and the library attorney Karrie Zeits, recently informed me that they have concluded that holding both positions of Director of Traverse Area District Library and being a City Commissioner are incompatible public offices under the Incompatible Public Offices Act (Act 566 of 1978). In light of this conclusion, and in order to uphold the integrity of both positions, I am resigning from the City Commission. I assume the role of Director on October 1, 2019. I am willing to serve on the City Commission until that point unless the Commission wishes otherwise. I will, of course, respect the wishes of the Commission if it would like me to resign sooner. Mr. Marentette has informed me that there is still time to run a Special Election for my the remainder of my term (2 years).

While I am disappointed to resign, I want to say that being elected by my fellow citizens is one of the highest honors I have ever held. In almost 3 years, we as a Commission have moved our beautiful City in a direction that makes it a more vibrant and thriving place that I am incredibly proud to call home. While we accomplished much together, my most proud accomplishments include: the 100% renewable energy goal, the Solar Array, Eighth Street (!!), approving an extensive sidewalk plan, approving the completion of the Boardman Lake Loop, designating Gender Neutral bathrooms in City buildings, and most importantly, allowing for a Safe Syringe Program which has had profound results. None of this happens on its own. It takes a Commission working together with our dedicated citizens and our community partners.

I want to thank the citizens for electing me, my fellow commissioners and City staff for all their hard work, and I hope to see you all at the library.

Best regards,
Michele P. Howard

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Michele P. Howard
City Commissioner

"Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently." ~Maya Angelou