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# City of Virginia Beach

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To my many friends and neighbors in the once and future City Council District 6 and throughout Virginia Beach,

I am announcing today that I will not be pursuing reelection to City Council in November of this year. Almost three years ago when I successfully sought temporary appointment to Council and in the subsequent special election when I was chosen to continue to serve until December 31 of 2022, I committed to bringing a pragmatic, independent and respectful attitude to representing the residents of our great City. I have worked hard to keep that promise.

My tenure on City Council has coincided with a period of turmoil for the City, including a deadly attack on City employees, multiple changes in leadership in the City Manager's office, growing recognition that the heart of our resort area is in urgent need of renewal and revitalization, a still-festering world health pandemic, and the upending of our system for election of Council members. Notwithstanding these difficulties, Virginia Beach residents and their elected representatives have persevered and achieved a remarkable record of progress on important matters ranging from protecting our City against stormwater and flooding to achieving a level of fiscal health and stability that would have seemed improbable as recently as the spring of 2020.

The reason for my decision is essentially a simple one. I would rather spend my energies for the rest of this year focused on doing my job rather than on campaigning to keep it. I am announcing my intentions at this time, because (1) the voting system and district boundaries that will govern the upcoming City Council election in November are now likely in place, and (2) I want potential candidates who may wish to represent District 6 beginning in 2023 to have the maximum amount of time and opportunity to consider their plans.

I want to thank the Mayor, my fellow Council members, City Manager Duhaney and his team and the many other members of the City workforce and volunteer corps who have assisted me on so many occasions and in so many ways in serving the public. I am especially grateful to my wife, Winship, for her many personal and professional sacrifices that have enabled me to focus on City matters. And I will always be grateful to the many donors and campaign workers who stood with Winship and me in 2019.

I am not stepping aside yet. I fully intend to serve the remainder of my term with vigor and dedication. There is much to be done in 2022. I look forward to meeting those challenges.