

Subject: Resignation
From: "Rick Brainard "
To: (Name Redacted)
CC:

Hey (Redacted),

Attached you will find my resignation from Grand Junction City Council. I thought a lot about our conversation of last night and in the end, I have lost my passion for public service for this city. It is unfortunate for everybody because I feel I could have made a huge difference in this community in the long run. However, there are a lot of mitigating factors that are very true in my life that when considered as a whole, this no longer makes sense. But here are the things I want to say to you:

City Council: I never agreed to "tell me how to vote and I will vote that way" or "tell me how to think and I will think that way". My point is everybody who knows me and has supported me knows I am a free thinker who is conservative in nature but also understands a city is way more than a business. I am a person that believes a city is a better city when you consider the sum of all of its attributes rather than looking at each attribute individually. As such you need everything and that sometimes mean investing in things that don't produce financial returns but rather quality of life and emotional returns. We live in a city we love because of the sum of all its attributes, not because of the roads. I feel bad for you and your staff because of this city council. I am not a micro manager, I believe you have professional staff and that staff should have the freedom and latitude to do their jobs well. I think you do a good job insulating your staff from the micro management this council has brought upon you. I also believe you do an excellent job running a very complicated city.

My Supporters: Thank you so much. Your support was humbling. I am sorry for the sequence of events that unfolded immediately after the election. I am sorry if that let you down or caused you to stop supporting me. No worries, I do not think bad of you for that as this was my error. I have held my head high throughout because of you, and because it is my nature. The fact is I have learned a lot about myself through counseling and I am a far better person today because of that. I hope that I have achieved at least some of your expectations of me in the short time I have been on city council.

The Press: Shame on you for not putting in the effort to ever get things right. You may hide your faults by some of the philanthropic things you support. But the bottom line is you have never, ever put in the hard work to get all the facts to get the story right. You do a disservice to this community every time you tell a story that lacks integrity. Shame on you for that. The good news is that I have spoken to enough of the fine citizens of this community to know that they see right through you and know exactly who you really are.

The Re-Elect Rick Brainard Crowd: You are welcome. But be perfectly clear on this, my stepping away has NOTHING to do with you. My comments here should be taken to heart and you should seriously reflect on them as you move forward. You may want to consider getting some counseling of your own. I have learned a lot about a topic from my councilors that I knew nothing about previously, I think my counselors Dr. Saul Tompkins and Patrick Mills for their advice and direction. You guys are wonderful. But for this group that couches their behavior in the support of Domestic Violence victims. Yet, when they produce a web site two things ring very true. First, there is not a single reference or link to a domestic violence resource. Does that seem odd? It does to me. It suggests that you have gotten so caught up in being the bully that you forgot your mission. Second, clearly you have become the bully, just flip through the pages and you will see that. Again, I suggest you take a little of your own medicine and learn about your own behaviors and how to best deal with them. Patrick Mills can certainly help if you need a resource, he is amazing. The bottom line is this, I have reached out to you using every means I know to do so engaging you to talk to me, actually get to know me and learn that I agree with your Domestic Violence mission and wanted to use my position on City Council to be your advocate. But you were not interested, because it diminished the fun of being the bully. I'm sorry, but the best way for me to take the wind out of your now poorly directed sails is to take myself away from you and point out to everybody else how you have lost your way.

To John Williams: Thank you for taking your time to attend all the City Council meetings you have. I believe you are a really good guy at heart, I agree that your Uncle Robb was a great man. Its too bad we have not gotten to know each other. I am pretty sure that your opinion of me is a direct result of what others have told you that also don't know me. But let me share this with you, i have to wonder where your cowardly friend are while you stand at the podium alone. It take courage and heart to stand up publicly for what you believe in, I'm sure your Uncle would be proud.

To Jim & Bennet: I have been nothing but polite, professional and respectful of both of you. I actually enjoy both of you for who you are. I tell you this because I want to point out the difference between taking the high-road and the low road. I could have been mad, resentful or even angry for your behavior following my arrest. I know you did what you did because you were fearful of three of the four new council members and any block they may have upon your agendas. That does not make your behavior appropriate. You should have risen above it and done the right thing. A quality I see in both both of you. And a quality that I am sure made it hard to act and behave the way you did. None the less, the greatest travesty to me was the fact that after you saw I took the high road with both of you, neither of you had the courage or the respect of me to say you were sorry. Therefore take a lesson from the kid, the high road is way less crowded than the low road.

To Marty: Do you really feel it necessary to write notes to me with underlines and exclamation point when I don't vote the way you do? Seriously? Do you really believe that everybody within the city leadership and staff is conspiring against you and therefore you need to get into the weeds on every topic? City Council is a non-partisan council and every council member should behave accordingly. Don't assume someone is ether for you or against you, given the chance, they will be right there with you.

Mr. Mayor: Thank you to you and your wife for your support and counseling during and after my election. However, since becoming Mayor, and especially our meeting last night after the city council meeting, your interaction with me has been less that appropriate. Your veiled threat last night fell on deaf ears because what you didn't know was, I had every city possession in my backpack last night prepared to hand it to Rich in my departure. But your request to meet with me meant something. Your behavior upset me so much that I am writing this letter today.

To the Grand Junction Airport Authority and Particularly Rex Tippets: You have an awesome leader in Rex Tippets. Never in my 30 year career in aviation have I met such a great airport director. You should support him and protect him as he is one of the real assets in this community. My hat is off to you Rex for behaving the only way you know how, to make your airport the best airport it can be!

Regarding Me: I have completed my court assigned community service a year and a half early. I worked for and with some amazing people at the Garden Village Apartments, part of Housing Resources. Thank you to everybody at Garden Village. I enjoyed my time with you and being part of your business for a while. It has been emotionally and spiritually moving to see your business, your tenants and your culture. I am about one quarter completed with my DV therapy with Patrick Mills. He is providing me with tools I never had because I have never been exposed to domestic violence before. These are tools you can use in everyday life to be a better human and I look forward to every meeting with Mr. Mills. These tools have enabled me to be able to re-connect with Cindy and allow us to start to figure out our futures.

In parting, it is good to know that when you have a life changing series of events like I have, who are your real friends. You go though a life like my mine building relationships that you feel are meaningful and personal, only to find out that in the end it is those that you take for granted that were important.

Rick