

This is a message to the good people of Newport. I hold myself to a very high and principled standard in life and in my elected role. You should hold me, and every single person at this table to the same high standard.

On my first day as Mayor I arrived at the city manager's office very excited to learn about my new role. Not once but twice, she told me and I quote "people will want to see you fail." After the second time I replied, "I believe people will want to see me succeed." I still believe the community wanted to see me succeed, I believe that there are others who wished me to fail.

Since that first day it was clear that I was not their mayor of choice, but I was the people's choice. I have spent 75 days being berated, intimidated, bullied, and was "commanded" not to do certain things and "forbidden" from doing others. This was done via e-mail, text and verbally behind the closed doors of executive session where there is no accountability to the public, it's a free for all. Deviating from the warned subject of an executive session is a blatant violation of 1 VSA 313 (a), it goes like this..."A motion to go into executive session shall indicate the nature of the business of the executive session and NO OTHER matter may be considered in the executive session." On May 9th I endured a grueling, 95 minute executive session that violated this legal statute. This was not the only time and perhaps they are simply ignorant of the laws and statutes.

After this first 95 minute executive session, I received a text thread from a council member, part of which read "they wanted much worse." I took this as a threat. No elected official should serve with complete dedication but be treated with complete contempt

There were other blatant statute violations but tonight I am talking to you, the good people of Newport.

I Love being your Mayor, not for the glory but for the service. However, It is with a very heavy heart that I say the people who wanted to see me fail have clearly won, by their definition. By my definition, people of Newport we have all won because I will continue to server, Mayor or not, with the same enthusiasm, vigor and dedication. We have work to do and we will do it together!

Please accept this letter of resignation in the City of Newport Council Chambers.

I will be available for comment, but not tonight.


5/22/2023