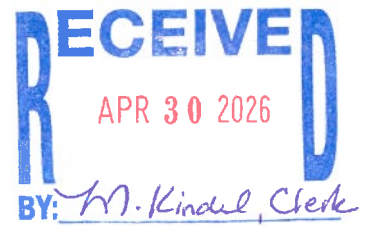


April 30, 2026



Dear Commissioners, Staff and Residents of the City of Stuart,

It is with a full heart and deep gratitude that I submit my resignation as your City Commissioner and Mayor effective today. Serving you over the past four years has been one of the greatest honors of my life and I am profoundly thankful for the trust you placed in me.

Pursuant to Section D of the City of Stuart Charter, "No commissioner may qualify as a candidate nor open a bank account to receive campaign contributions for another public office, whether state, district, county or municipal without resigning from the City Commission position he or she presently holds." In accordance with this requirement, I am stepping down from my current role as I seek to continue serving our community in a new capacity.

When I first arrived at City Hall four years ago, it was a very different place. Today, I can say with confidence that we are in a much stronger position—through improved efficiency, strengthened leadership and a renewed sense of purpose and pride that fills our halls. Together, we have built a team dedicated to protecting and enhancing your quality of life, including the hiring of a top-tier City Manager, City Attorney and Environmental Attorney.

I am proud that we delivered on the promises we made. We fought for slow growth and achieved a 98% reduction in apartment approvals. We prioritized clean water by establishing an environmental attorney position to defend our natural resources. And we respected taxpayers by lowering the tax rate for the first time in a decade. These are meaningful accomplishments that reflect the values of this community.

To our incredible city staff—thank you for your professionalism, your warmth and for teaching me the ropes along the way. Your dedication is the backbone of this city's success and I am deeply appreciative of all you do. Thank you for everything, it's been a pleasure serving with you and keep up the great work.

We are truly blessed to live in paradise, recognized as "The Best Coastal Small Town" in America. I leave this role confident that our city is in good hands and proud of the part I have played in its transformation. I can truly say: mission accomplished.

This is not an ending, but a beginning. I look forward to continuing to serve you and to partnering with the City Commission and staff as your Martin County Commissioner for District 2—bridging relationships with County leadership to get things done for the benefit of residents. Together, we can expand our mission of bringing slow, responsible growth, clean water and low taxes not just to the City of Stuart, but to all of Martin County.

Thank you again for the honor of serving you,

Christopher "Doc" Collins, proud resident of the City of Stuart