

Friends,

Tuesday afternoon, we took the vote ... and the result was positive - a unanimous reaffirmation of support for Mike Hein.

The way we got there, however, was inappropriate and unprofessional. It was harmful not just to Mr. Hein, but to our community as a whole. No one member of Mayor and Council has the right to unilaterally demand someone's resignation. Express your own concerns? Fine. Call for a special executive session to discuss concerns. Fine. But not a public call for resignation.

I respect and understand the perspectives and concerns voiced publicly by Ms. Uhlich, Ms. Romero and Ms. Scott. They raised specific concerns about specific problems they've encountered. And they addressed them directly to Mr. Hein. That is their right and their responsibility as Councilmembers.

My perspective on Mr. Hein is a bit different, having known and/or worked with him for more than 15 years. I have confidence in his integrity, his skills and his vision. But the strength of our Council is that each of us can bring forward our perspectives, discuss them with each other and in front of the community, then jointly make a decision on how best to proceed.

I received many emails in support of Mr. Hein in the last week or so. People cited his vision in helping us create a sustainability plan that allots 60% of available funds to services to our community [think neighborhood street resurfacing and parks] and 40% to human capital [think 80 new police officers and 53 firefighters in the first two years]; his work in extending the TIF so we would have more money with which to revitalize our downtown; his efforts to work cooperatively with the County on transportation issues, water planning, and environmental protections; and in this most difficult of budget years, his ability to create a budget with NO layoffs of staff, unlike our sister city to the north, where not only city administrative staff but also police were laid off. I also received some complaints, mostly referencing issues of style and approach. I took every comment into consideration.

Now it is time to move forward.

This past Tuesday, we made a mutual commitment to the citizens of Tucson. Mayor, Council and Manager will continue to work - together - on behalf of our community. We will continue to work - together - to improve and strengthen our communications so we can stay focused on our job: doing what is best for our community.

I am hopeful - and confident - that is exactly what will happen.

I value your continued input.

Nina

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