

Friends ~

I will be brief today.

This has been a rough week for our community. By a 4-3 vote, my colleagues decided to fire our City Manager. I absolutely disagree with the action the majority took. I strongly supported Mr. Hein, but that was not the main issue for me. It was timing. Unless there are legal reasons to do so, you simply do not fire a City Manager when your budget for the coming year is far from complete; when your community is in the midst of a recession; when you have an interim finance director and an interim police chief; and when the legislature is threatening to take away \$450-million in funding to revitalize our Downtown.

A few major steps forward for Downtown are about to happen. For months, I have been working with the Manager and members of the private sector on several key actions that will strengthen our entire community's confidence in what has been accomplished Downtown – and what is coming – building a more solid foundation for Tucson. My commitment to you is that I will continue to work to make these things come to fruition despite this week's action.

In the next few days and weeks, I believe you will see tangible results of months of efforts for the benefit of all of Tucson ... and Arizona.

And so – together – we must look to the future. I am confident – despite this week's divided opinion – my colleagues and I will move beyond this and remain focused on making decisions that are in the best interest of our community's future because, after all, that is why you elect us. That is our job. There is nothing more important.

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