

Monday, April 5, 2021

To the residents of Chestertown,

I am submitting this letter tonight to inform you that I am resigning from my post as Mayor of Chestertown, effective immediately. This is not a decision to be taken lightly, and comes after hours of soul searching, conversations with my wife and children, and ultimately at the direction of our family physician. Over the past several days, my emotional state has become increasingly unstable. While this is embarrassing to reveal in a public forum, I must now be honest with myself - and with you - in acknowledging that the stress levels I have endured for the past seven years are significantly impacting my mental health and physical well being. In the long term, I am confident that I will be fine. However, in the short term I urgently need to unplug, spend time with family and friends, and focus exclusively on activities that bring me peace and happiness.

I am extremely proud of the many great things we have accomplished together during my time in office. The capital improvements that have been implemented throughout the community, economic development programs that have been put in place, and social justice initiatives designed to address issues of equity and inclusion are just beginning to bear fruit, and will benefit our residents for years to come. None of this would be possible without the support of hundreds of community stakeholders that have helped along the way. I would like to personally thank each and every volunteer that served on the Town's Planning Commission, Historic District Commission, Board of Appeals, Ethics Commission, Recreation Commission, Redistricting Committee, Environmental Committee, Tree Committee, Public Arts Committee, Equity Advisory Committee, and the Boards of the Chestertown Main Street program and Arts and Entertainment District. Additionally, I would like to commend all of the paid employees that ensure our governmental services are delivered in an efficient and professional manner. This includes the staff at Town Hall, members of the street crew, employees on the utilities commission, and officers of the Chestertown Police Department. While the Mayor often gets the sound bites in the press, you are the true face of Chestertown for our constituents. Lastly, I would like to thank the staff and Board of Directors at Sultana Education Foundation, who have been extraordinarily generous and flexible in allowing me to juggle the myriad responsibilities associated with holding public office while simultaneously working to implement educational programs at Sultana.

In closing, please know that I have nothing but love, respect, and compassion for every single one of the five thousands residents of Chestertown. You deserve competent, strong, and energetic leadership, which I am unable to provide at the present time. In seven months, you will have the opportunity to elect a new leader, and when that time comes I stand by ready to assist in any way practical. In the interim, I am confident that the Town's affairs will be in good hands with my fellow Council members and our capable staff.

Respectfully,

Chris Cerino
Mayor