

Bill Bogaard

311 Congress Place Pasadena, California 91105

September 2, 2014

Dear Friends,

During August, Claire and I enjoyed a wonderful vacation with our children and grandchildren and we were reminded what fun it is to be with them and how important each member of our family is to us as they make progress in their respective lives. We were also reminded how quickly time goes by. In any event, it is time now for me to give full attention to my activities as Mayor and to think about the future.

Next May, I will complete four terms of service as Pasadena's first elected Mayor, having taking office in 1999. My time has gone by swiftly but always with a great sense of satisfaction and pride that the voters selected me to offer leadership and service to this great community. Now the question I am asked repeatedly is what I will decide regarding possible re-election.

This question has been extremely difficult for me, because I consider it an extreme privilege to serve as Mayor and to work with the dedicated people at City Hall and in the community who are all committed to making Pasadena a great place to live and work. There has been strong support for me to seek another term.

This is not a good time to step away, since we face ongoing challenges that are important to me and to all of you. In a challenging economic climate, we must continue our efforts to maintain a strong financial condition and to ensure responsibility and transparency in the use of public funds. We must also pursue a strong local economy for the 21st century, youth development programs and strong public education, affordable housing and homeless services, renewable energy sources, water conservation, and planning and zoning guidelines that protect and strengthen the character of our city.

Yet there is never a good time for a decision like this and so, after lots of thinking and often conferring with many of you, I have reached a reluctant decision not to run for re-election. I don't want to look back and find that I stayed too long, and I want to go on to other activities which will include much more time spent with Claire and the other members of our family.

I am comforted by the fact that there are so many persons in Pasadena who share the commitment to make the city great and who are more than capable of offering strong leadership. I have the privilege of working with many of them. My intention is to be supportive of ongoing efforts in every way that I can.

Speaking of that kind of leadership, I want to express appreciation to my colleagues on the Council, to City Manager Michael Beck, and to the dedicated staff at City Hall, to the more than 200 persons who serve on Pasadena boards and commissions, and to all in the community who are involved in creating the future of our city. The opportunity to work with them has been a highlight of my years of service which I will forever appreciate and never forget.

As you know, Claire has worked hard as a community activist and volunteer and over time she, along with her colleagues at Pasadena Heritage and supporters throughout the community, has made a remarkable contribution to our city. In addition, she has been my greatest support, my best advisor, and the person who has contributed most to any successes or benefits associated with my public service.

From the beginning, my platform as Mayor has been to strengthen Pasadena in all the ways that make it unique and special and to overcome any weaknesses or shortfalls that limit its ability to offer a rich and humane quality of life. My goal has been to enhance that quality of life for all and to embrace the disadvantaged members of our community by increasing jobs and affordable housing, creating access to education and learning, improving health services, and generally opening to all this city's many rich resources and activities.

So I take great pride in Pasadena's thriving neighborhoods, its economy that is increasingly based on innovation and entrepreneurship, its arts and cultural institutions that make our community unique, the nonprofit organizations that meet the needs of disadvantaged persons, our commitment to youth development, to sustainability, and to an open acceptance and a celebration of the city's wonderful and diverse people.

I want to express thanks to you for your strong and significant support for my work during the last 15 years. In the months ahead, I intend to continue to work hard as Mayor and to continue my efforts to strengthen the community.

Sincerely,

Bill Boquist