

October 23, 2017

Tari Renner
Mayor of Bloomington
109 E. Olive Street
Bloomington IL 61701

Dear Mayor Renner:

This letter serves as a statement of our collective disappointment in some of your actions. As elected officials, we are called upon to represent the citizens with respect and civility. Whether you did so as an individual or as the Mayor, your recent interactions do not demonstrate respect or integrity. Your actions do not reflect the values of the City of Bloomington and bring disgrace to our governing body.

Your lack of acknowledgement or apology for these behaviors is not professional, and does not encourage the kind of public dialogue that seeks common understanding and mutual commitment to a better community. Your treatment of individuals with whom you disagree violates the shared values of the City Council. An acknowledgement of your behavior prior to your leave of absence, and an apology at the October 9 meeting when you returned, were expected, as was a re-commitment to civil interactions with residents, employees and council. You chose instead to berate others for acrimonious behavior instead of calling for a renewed commitment to setting a standard of mutual respect that enhances all that is good in Bloomington, a standard that you could set by example but have chosen not to follow.

Leadership is about respect. Leadership is about setting a positive example. Leadership encourages civil discourse. Elected officials and leaders are held to a higher standard. With leadership comes obligation and responsibility. It may not always be easy, but it is always expected and necessary. Each one of us on City Council – aldermen and the mayor – has an obligation and responsibility to be respectful, to set a positive example and to encourage civil discourse. You have not honored these.

We request that going forward, you respect the office you have been elected to and apologize to the citizens of Bloomington, recommitting yourself to Resolution No. 2015-6. We further ask that you reaffirm your understanding of the Roles and Responsibilities document which we collectively developed, and reflect these in all your actions.

You were elected for your vision and energy to move our city forward. This should be your legacy. We look forward to working with you to create a vibrant Bloomington.

Signed,

Nancy Berry, Blue, [unclear]