



City of Akron, Ohio  
Donald L. Plusquellic, Mayor

May 8, 2015

To The Citizens of Akron:

It has been an honor to serve the people of Akron for over forty-one years. The vast majority of people have been good-hearted, honest and caring. I have enjoyed working directly with them through both the good days and the difficult ones as we took on the tough job of transitioning an entire community.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve with some of the most dedicated, and I will emphasize honest, people in my Cabinet and in City government.

I believe Akron may have the longest stretch of years in the U.S. without any cabinet member being convicted or even charged with a violation of any law – and that didn't happen by accident. It was partly a result of an environment or culture we created by requiring people to do what is right, not what is politically expedient, to be transparent, to deal with people and issues honestly, and to encourage people to speak their mind -- especially if they think there is something wrong. I am extremely proud of our record of achievement.

It is why more than anything, it is so disturbing to me that the words and reputations of seven cabinet members and the President of City Council, Garry Money Penny (a retired police chief), are being discounted in favor of one enraged councilperson. To believe this one person, it is necessary to believe that all 8 dedicated, honest people would lie for the Mayor of Akron – and that just is not possible. Nor by the way, have I ever asked anyone to lie or make-up a story after the fact as, unfortunately, the Beacon has accused Stephanie York of doing.

If the Beacon really wanted to know the truth, the Publisher would have accepted our offer to have those 8 people in his office to let reporters interview them in front of him so he, himself, hears the truth. But he declined.

The good people of Akron deserve better – they deserve the truth. I do not now believe that my hometown newspaper is interested in the truth. And, after 41 years of honest service to the City I love, to be called a “B word” in an editorial is more than I'm willing to endure.

I am done fighting this madness so I hereby submit my resignation and retirement effective at midnight, May 31, 2015, just a few days after we open the new Mustard Seed grocery store in Highland Square – another promise we have helped to keep, to make up for the lies told by a private sector business person.

I wish only the best for the citizens of Akron and I thank them for the opportunity to serve. I hope they know that I did my best and truly cared for our City. And they will know why I will never apologize for fighting for Akron residents to get the jobs and the education they need, or for simply telling the truth.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Plusquellic