

DRAFT STATEMENT

At the council meeting on January 11, 2021, the City Council voted to authorize me to negotiate a resignation agreement with city manager Charlie Bush. Charlie and I engaged in good faith negotiations, and we were able to reach an agreement that both the City Council and Charlie believe is fair and equitable. Both Charlie and I have signed the agreement. His last day as our City Manager is February 15th, 2021.

As you know, there has been a lot of attention lately on conflict between Charlie and certain members of the City Council. Charlie and I agree that this coverage has been overblown, and we do not want that focus to news to detract from the years of productive work we have done together. Nor do I want the fact of Charlie's resignation to take away from his contributions to the City, which include:

- (a) successfully leading Sequim through the COVID-19 pandemic,
- (b) the reconstruction of Fir Street,
- (c) renewal of the Transportation Benefit District,
- (d) police department accreditation and reaccreditation,
- (e) establishment of the Sequim Health and Housing Collaborative,
- (f) renovations to the Guy Cole Event Center,
- (g) Sequim Service Fest and the Rally in the Alley Program, and
- (h) further development of the City of Sequim into a High Performing Organization.

Finally, I want to thank Charlie for his professionalism in the transition. The City Council has retained Charisse Deschenes as acting city manager. She has the full support of the council, and I believe the staff as well. Charlie has provided excellent mentoring of Charisse for her new role, and I expect the operations of the City to continue smoothly with her as Acting City Manager.