

In response to the Mayor's address during the June 16, 2026 caucus meeting, I want to firmly reiterate my position regarding the May 22nd memo.

I have already apologized directly to our city staff for any communication that may have upset them or made them feel underappreciated. That was never my intent. I see their hard work every day, and I am incredibly grateful for their dedication. My focus has always been on analyzing processes, improving systems, and finding efficiencies for our residents—never on attacking the personnel who keep our city running.

Over the last six years as both a candidate and a council member, I have consistently engaged with our staff and have participated in numerous ride-alongs with our first responders. I do this to understand what they need to serve our community safely and effectively. I regularly ask our employees what support or resources they lack and listen to their concerns so I can advocate on their behalf. For the Mayor to accuse me of anything less than being 100% supportive of our staff is categorically false.

Furthermore, the "evidence" presented by the Mayor completely lacks context. One email cited as an example of me "abusing and harassing" staff was actually the culmination of a two-week, approximately 10-email exchange regarding a very simple resident request to replace a previously removed "No Parking" sign. My expressed frustration came only after prolonged lack of response and administrative delays—a context the Mayor conveniently chose to omit.

I also want to address the expectation that I should only communicate through the City Administrator, City Attorney, or the Mayor, rather than directly with Department Heads. In the past, Council has received what I view as inaccurate or incomplete information from the Mayor and a former City Administrator on a variety of topics. It is a disservice to our residents when department recommendations are filtered, altered, or omitted before reaching Council.

If we are discussing tax rates, I want to hear directly from the Director of Finance—the expert in that field. If we are discussing funding for a sidewalk expansion, I want to hear directly from the Director of Public Works. Bypassing direct communication creates an inefficient and childish game of "telephone." This is not about disrespecting anyone or issuing direct orders; it is about obtaining accurate, unfiltered data so I can responsibly do the job I was elected to do.

While it is clear we have operational follow-through issues that need to be addressed in cooperation with our City Administrator, I do not blame our city employees. We simply need to develop better systems so everyone can work efficiently and we must also address what I view as a disruptive level of micromanagement coming from the Mayor.