



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Santa Clara, CA – It has been my honor and privilege to serve the residents of Santa Clara as your Council Member for 12 years. Together we have raised the minimum wage twice, passed the first workers retention ordinance in Santa Clara County, created a scholarship program for our youth to afford college, and, together, survived a recession and emerged stronger than anyone would have imagined. Santa Clara is bright and I am humbled to be a part of that success.

When my personnel file was illegally released by the Santa Clara Unified School District last Monday irreparable harm occurred to me and my family. Shortly after, the file was sent to the media by a District employee and a social media circus ensued with just four weeks before the primary election. Political adversaries are motivated to discredit my candidacy, bury me professionally and personally. I will not let that happen.

I have been a celebrated teacher for 20 years at a Santa Clara High School. I have had the privilege of teaching thousands of students at the high school, community college, and university levels. I am honored to have been nominated by the senior classes as Teacher of the Year multiple times, winning it the past two years at Santa Clara High School. Sadly none of that has been mentioned in the media. I would never do anything to harm the health and wellness of my family, my students, my school district or our city.

The allegations against me are false in every sense of the word, yet I have been tried and convicted in the court of public opinion without due process or recognition of my distinguished service to the school or the city. Reading the papers, online reports, and watching the news is too much for my family and me to bear. The past week has been unbelievably excruciating.

The hallmark of a successful elected official is to effectively and passionately serve his or her constituents. I can no longer do that at this time. As a result, I have decided to resign my seat on the Santa Clara City Council, something that is against every instinct in my body. In addition, as a former front runner for the Board of Supervisors, I can no longer effectively communicate the issues that I am campaigning on: solving the housing crisis, protecting our neighborhoods, and rebuilding our infrastructure. Thus, I am suspending my campaign for Supervisor and will no longer actively campaign.

I must now work to preserve my family, livelihood and health. In the next few months the allegations against me will be put to the test and my name will be cleared. Serving the residents of Santa Clara on the City Council has been a highlight of my life. Thank you all for your kindness and support. Please pray for us during this difficult time.