

June 21, 2020

To: Commission President Frank O'Donnell, Commissioner Denyse McGriff, Commissioner Rachel Lyles Smith and Commissioner Rocky Smith

We write to you as former mayors of Oregon City --and as active citizens of a community we deeply care about and have supported in many ways throughout our 35+ years living here. We have both participated in and led actions within our city (and on behalf of our city) that have created new opportunities for all. That's what mayors do.

But we also served during times of great challenge and we empathize with your current situation as only those who have walked in your shoes can. But this is different. Disturbing.

When the Mayor is out of step with the community, demonstrates rude, degrading and possibly illegal behavior, it is indeed troubling. Dan Holladay's use of social media to inflame members of the public runs contrary to the expectations of a mayor. The mayor's position should be to facilitate public dialogue and create an atmosphere where goals and policies can be discussed safely, debated, and formulated through respectful dialogue among the Commission members with input from the public and city staff. Holladay's actions run contrary to these expectations.

His attempt to seek support from other city mayors and regional leaders to unilaterally discontinue the State-mandated lockdowns for the Covid-19 pandemic was not only illegal but done without the approval of the City Commission, of which he is only one vote.

Without solid leadership, the city suffers. We are grateful that you four commissioners are stepping forward with purposeful unity, demonstrating solidarity in your focus, keeping communications open, honoring Robert's Rules of Order, and giving hope to all of us who desire strong leadership during this time of unprecedented challenge.

Both of us supported our current mayor for a very short time in the past -- because we wanted to believe he had changed for the better. We were wrong. He has not changed --at least for the better. Our community deserves better, especially knowing that he has three years left in his term of office. We support your resolution of censure and the citizens' call for his removal from office.

Recalls are divisive, but sometimes necessary to restore balance and trust within elected leadership. This is such a time. Please know that we stand with you and are ready to assist you in any way that can be helpful.

Doug Neeley
Oregon City Mayor 2011-2014

Alice Norris
Oregon City Mayor 2003-2010