

From: Solomon, Brian
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2012 7:48 AM
To: ALL ALDERS
Cc: Mayor
Subject: Moving Forward

Dear Colleagues:

I hope this finds you each well. I have spent the last few weeks considering how to best contact you regarding the difficult situation you are in as a result of the accusations against me and the subsequent investigations. I received news on Wednesday night, however, that has forced me to communicate with you immediately.

As you know, I have been accused of a very serious crime. This situation is especially difficult because of our culture's long history of sexism and male privilege and because sexual assault is one of the most common, underreported, and under-prosecuted crimes. That has rightfully resulted in a situation in which our sympathies automatically lie with the accuser. However, that begs the question of how to respond or handle the situation when the accusations are actually false. Despite "innocent until proven guilty" being one of the foundational tenets of our justice system, the concept has been mostly non-existent in this situation. And I need to make very clear that I am entirely innocent of everything of which I have been accused.

I know that this accusation reflects negatively on this body and on our city and am horrified that is the case. I'm certain that is a big part of the reason that several of my colleagues have now crafted a letter requesting my resignation.

Before I go into that, however, I ask you to imagine what the last fourteen months have been like for my family and me. I ask you to imagine what it must be like to be falsely accused, investigated twice, and found guilty in the media and among a number of my colleagues despite being found not guilty by two investigations.

I want to explain to you why I am not planning on stepping down. On one hand, there are my personal reasons. First, I have a desire to see things through and stand by my commitments. Second, while I have learned much through this terrible ordeal, I am innocent of this horrible accusation and resignation could be seen by some as an acknowledgement of wrongdoing. Finally, I have experienced bullying by several

members of our body and simply cannot stand the thought of giving in to such coercive attempts to exert political advantage. Civic participation is a cornerstone of our democracy and I would rather serve as a model of dignity under pressure than accede to a situation in which my guilt was assumed before I even knew what I was accused of.

But my personal feelings are only a single part of the equation. Another consideration is whether or not I can effectively do my job. My primary responsibility, of course, is to represent my district and I continue to do so, just as I have for 4+ years. I've not had a single constituent ask me to resign except for one signatory to the resignation request letter. I cannot recall a single constituent, other than the aforementioned individual, contacting me with anything but support.

A final consideration is the impact this accusation has on our operations, on our body as a whole, and on my colleagues. Some have felt that this case has been a distraction to the business of the council and obviously there is a great deal of discomfort among my colleagues. However, there are only two reasons this lives on and both are a result of **council** actions: the decision to pursue a code of conduct and the crafting of the resignation request letter.

Contrary to what several of my colleagues have written in this incredibly disappointing letter, I have lived my entire life as a compassionate person motivated by kindness, dignity, a strong ethical compass, and a resolute belief in the inherent dignity of all life. I remain that person and I remain committed to full equality and the end of sexual violence.

My guess is that my colleagues will consider this letter step one. My unwillingness to resign will likely cause them to consider a step two and perhaps a step three. In other words, the distractions will likely continue. With due respect, it is time to move on. If colleagues insist on taking further action, might I suggest they consider recommendations made in the DCR report? Please note that there is no relationship between those recommendations and anything contained within the resignation request letter.

We have major problems that need our immediate attention. I hope that you can join me in condemning the resignation request and encouraging our body to move forward in dealing with the issues we face in our city.

While I refuse to dignify this letter with a point / counter-point response, I would be willing to discuss this situation further with you if interested. Obviously and as always, do not reply all to this email. With admiration and respect for our body, my colleagues, and our city,

Brian
