

Mayor,

I am writing this letter to inform you of my resignation from the Centerton City Council. Although there is only 3 months left on my term, it is with great disappointment that I am resigning. In the years that I have served the citizens of Centerton I've always tried my best to do what is best for Centerton, and most importantly OUR Citizens. No agenda's, no preconceived notions on any subjects, I've done my best to keep it black and white.

I've always tried to support Centerton anyway that I could. It's apparent now that that's not the case when the shoe is on the other foot. I still love Centerton, and always will, it's truly a great place to live, whether I stay here or not. There are many wonderful people who live here that I am fortunate to have met in my time here.

I must tell you, it is very hard to read what people say about me that have never met me. We live in a quick to rush to judgment, cast the first stone society, that's just a fact of life. People who tend to judge others prematurely tend to have their own agenda's that are hidden by their words. I bet none of them have holes in their hands.

Serving on City Council in a small city is nothing that anyone does for the money nor the notoriety. Is it worth \$50 a month to take the phone calls from those complaining about something? Or sitting through meetings until after midnight a few years ago dealing with past issues? That knowing when a topic rises, we are spokespeople for our Ward's and know matter what we say, someone on one side of the topic is going to be angry with us. Knowing that when everyone else is at home eating dinner with their loved ones, we're hashing out the things that affect their everyday lives, and will eat dinner a couple hours after they do, if we're lucky. But most importantly we are serving them with no selfishness, just a desire to make the place where we live a little better.

Any given City Council meeting there may be 3-5 people show up other than Department Heads and those who are required to attend the meetings. No one wants to get involved, that's human nature. The only time the public shows any interest is when there is controversy, it's never when we are all trying to help our City grow and keep costs and tax dollars to a minimal. I've

never even ran opposed. That just tells me that no one else has the want to or desire to step up to the plate and do what's best for Centerton. I would love to have had competition, that means someone else cared about Centerton too. Competition makes us all stronger. We know that certain people have quit when they get a little competition, and even threatened to do it again this election. Is that what TRUE leadership is all about?

When the going gets tough that's when our character really shines or crawls in a hole and curls up. That's why I didn't want to resign. I served the Citizens of Centerton and I served them well, and am very proud of that. I'm not the animal that the media is trying to make me out to be. ANYONE, who knows ME knows that. I truly like people and hate no one, though if there ever was a time I could, this is it, but that's just not the right thing to do. I will come out of this with a clear name, but I've certainly shed a lot of tears over the past couple of weeks, because I do care about people and what people think of me. I come from very humble roots, so it's very easy to feel like you don't belong, but I must keep my chin-up.

My mother gave me a small plate a couple of years ago that hung on our wall when I was a child. It reads, "True friends are like diamonds, precious but rare, False friends are like autumn leaves found everywhere". That couldn't be more true. I can count my real friends on one hand and have fingers left, and I realize that it is autumn now, but there are a lot of falling leaves out there. But that's okay, everything happens for a reason. Adversity should only make us stronger, and it will.

In closing, I want to thank the City for allowing me the opportunity to serve it and its citizens. I would also like to thank my current and former constituents on City Council. It is from you that I have learned very much about how a City operates, and I sincerely thank ALL of you for that. It has truly been an honor that I wouldn't trade for anything. I will not be attending City Council tomorrow evening if you would like to revise the agenda. God Bless and Best of Wishes.

Randy W. Thomas