



An Open Letter to the City of Cleveland Heights

November 21, 2018

Dear Cleveland Heights Residents, Leaders, Co-Workers, and Friends:

Over the years I've had co-workers who decided to retire and I would ask them how they knew when it was time to walk away. The answer was almost always the same, "you just know."

For me that time honestly is now I just know.

For 29 years I've worked for the city of Cleveland Heights, for 14 years I have been lucky enough to be your Public Works Director and it has been the most rewarding and exhilarating experience of my life. There wasn't one minute that I took this job for granted nor did I not understand what a great honor and privilege it was.

When I came to Cleveland Heights I was a 27 year old young man just starting off not knowing where my life was headed. I'm leaving it as a 56 year old husband and father of three beautiful children with memories and experiences that I will always keep close to my heart.

As this chapter of my life comes to an end I will always remember the relationships I have developed over the years with not just the amazing men and women, Supervisors, Directors, staff and Public works employees that I interacted with on a daily basis; and also all the residents I had the pleasure of serving and all the city councils past and present that I have had the honor of spending my Monday nights with.

My family and I are beyond grateful for everything the city has given us as well as the support I've had wherever I went from all of the directors and throughout this organization. It has been truly a blessing to serve the residents of Cleveland Heights. The residents here are absolutely beautiful people and deserve the best service. I hopefully succeeded in doing that.

I would be remiss not to mention and thank a couple people who helped me and my family throughout this journey, the first is Dominic Tomaro and James Giavonette Sr., without them I would have never had this chance. Robert Downey, without him taking a chance on me I could have never become the Public Works Director. Susanna Niermann O'Neil the Assistant City Manager and friend who day in and day out has helped me in ways no one can understand. Linda Dulik and Andre Spencer who were both always there for me, and I know that was not easy on them. Joe Kickel and Giovanni Maltese, for

all the work we accomplished through Capital Projects. Chuck Novario, the street Supervisor for all of the storms and emergencies we've weathered together; there were nights that we thought would never end. Last but especially not least, to Tanisha Briley our City Manager, it has been both an honor and privilege working with you. There were times that I wasn't quite sure of myself but you were always there to help me through it. You are a true leader, and I will never forget you. Thank you. I will never forget you.

Now it's time for the next chapter of my life and I am both curious and excited to find out what exactly that will be. I do know one thing. My time will center around my wife Michelle and my 3 beautiful children. They have sacrificed so much with me working days, nights, holidays, weekends, and emergencies. Now it's their turn. I can only hope that the next chapter is as rewarding and provides as much joy as I've had over the last 29 years.

Thank you and God bless,



Alex Mannarino,
Director of Public Works