Hello all,

Well, this is an email I didn't expect to write, but one of the many things I've learned over the last 12 months is, "expect the unexpected."

It is with mixed emotion that I am announcing the resignation of Brooks Blanton. Brooks has made the difficult decision to leave FOX 17 to pursue a new opportunity in Charlotte, North Carolina as News Director of an up and coming CW station, WCCB.

In his seven plus years as News Director, Brooks has been a driving force behind our success. His keen "nose for news" and his unwavering commitment and love for his team makes him a special kind of Manager that you don't come across often, especially in this industry.

I'm sure many of you have personal stories that you will always carry with you about how Brooks took the time to listen, give advice and maybe even reprimand, but even in the latter case, you always knew that deep down, he was probably right and that more importantly, he cared.

Over the course of my career, I've seen many people come and go. That's just business. But for me, this one stings just a bit more than the others.

A little over four years ago, I came to this station as a brand new GM, with a background in Sales and Marketing with zero News experience. From the beginning, Brooks took the time to teach me the inner workings of our newsroom and help me to better understand not only the "how" but the "why" we do what we do. Like many of you, I too have learned so much from Brooks and I will always be grateful for that.

Brooks: Few people can elevate those around them to reach their potential. You are one of those people. You have brought our team to new heights, and I will always be thankful for the work you've done. Now it is time to raise up another team. I'm definitely going to miss working with you. ☹

I wish you nothing but success and hope that our paths cross again someday~

Brooks' last day is May 14. The search for his replacement will begin immediately.

