

To My KTVT News Family--

There's no easy way to say this so I'll just rip the band aid off and get right to the point. I've made the difficult decision to step aside as your News Director....but the great news is I'm not going anywhere! I'll be staying with CBS Dallas in a new role that Raquel will tell you about shortly.

I've put this newsroom and each of you first—ever since I walked in the door seven years ago. Which is why it's important that I share the reasons that led me to this decision.

As many of you know, I've had some recent health issues that resulted in a fairly lengthy hospital stay in March. The experience of lying in a dark, lonely hospital room gave me a lot of time to think. (My mind can be a scary place😊) It was during these dark moments I realized I needed to reassess and evaluate some things in my personal life. As I was struggling to find some answers, I had another setback. We lost our home when a pipe burst and have been living in a hotel for the past several months. So while dealing with health issues and the loss of our home, I had some really tough conversations with myself and family. I came to the conclusion that I had to make some major life changes—immediately. In short, I need to prioritize myself and my health.

When I approached Raquel to talk through all of this, she responded in such a caring way that is wholly representative of the new leadership and culture that exists here at CBS 11. The care for each and every employee is genuine—no matter your job description. Over the past few months we've talked through some options that would provide the balance I seek as well as reinforce some areas of opportunity within our organization. We identified a different role for me that plays to my strengths and allows me to flex some creative muscles while continuing to be a part of this amazing work family that I love.

I've been blessed to lead this incredibly talented newsroom. In my seven years at CBS 11 -- we've covered some really important stories. The DPD Ambush Shootings, Botham Jean/Amber Guyger, Tornadoes, BLM Protests, Uvalde and all things COVID. We've also had our share of fun times--from State Fair road shows to melting anything and everything in 100+ degree heat. And don't forget my favorite assignment of them all...."just go out there and find people doing stuff". No matter the subject matter, it's been an honor and pleasure to lead this team.

With Raquel, Adrienne and Wendy's support, I'm excited to step into this new role and take on a new challenge that I know will make a difference in our newsroom. While I'm stepping aside as your News Director, I'm so grateful we've found a role that allows me to grow as a journalist and manage my life—while continuing to work with this incredible team. Sounds like it's my turn to get out there and find some people doing stuff.

Until then, I'm still your News Director. So let's keep our foot on the gas and continue to do what we do best--produce great work!

Laurie