

February 24, 2022

Kathleen Otto, County Manager
Clark County, WA

Dear Kathleen,

This letter comes to officially inform you that I will be resigning from my position as Clark County Councilor.

I have been honored to serve the people who elected me to represent them as Chair for the Clark County Council. I have been proud to work with the majority of the Council and I have especially enjoyed working with you, our County Manager.

This resignation has been in the planning for several months. In fact, I knew in June of 2020, that I would not be running for re-election in 2022 as my husband and I planned to move out of state when I completed my term of office.

Several personal extenuating circumstances have led to my decision to leave sooner than planned.

Like thousands of citizens of Clark County, I have found and cannot go without mentioning the deleterious, overreaching actions of the Governor with his proclamations that have crippled and destroyed many businesses as well as others who have lost their jobs and ability to provide for their families through the never-ending mandates. These mandates have created an atmosphere of discrimination against those who cannot wear a mask for health reasons, those who cannot take the COVID shot for health and religious reasons, and those who will not take the shot because they already have the greatest inoculation against the virus – natural immunity! Unfortunately, many are moving out of this state because of these issues.

Because of the ongoing divide and politically correct response of those in authority, many here and around the nation have lost confidence and faith in the advice of our public health officials.

I have served in both the House and Senate in the Oregon State Legislature, therefore I come with some experience in the legislative process and decorum within committees and on the floor of both the House and Senate. I greatly enjoyed that experience and the civility among the members from both sides of the aisle.

With that said, the last several years of serving as Chair of the Council were made difficult by the uncollegial behavior of two of the Council members (Lentz and Olson) who apparently saw their positions as antagonists, and me as their enemy. This is not how a legislative body should work. Differing views on policy issues should be discussed openly and civilly, not with hostility and disrespect. Certainly, council members should not go to social media and openly bash their colleagues who disagree with their views. This greatly diminishes the ability to make good policy, recruit quality people to serve, and the joy of serving the public.

I want to thank the many supporters who have encouraged and thanked me for my service. Again, it has been my honor and pleasure to serve them and the great people of Clark County Washington.

The last day of my service will be on March 1, 2022.

Sincerely,

Eileen Quiring O'Brien