To Mayor Schwartzman, City Council, City Administration and Galesburg Residents:

I am writing to inform you that I am resigning from City Council effective July 20, 2021. Being a member of the City Council has been an opportunity I have truly cherished so the decision to resign is difficult but correct. After a great deal of prayer and reflection, I believe it's in the best interest of both the City and myself to relinquish my duties as Ward 3 Alderperson.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me at one point or another during my tenure as Alderperson. It has been both an honor and a privilege to serve our community and I am genuinely excited to see Galesburg continue down a path of progress. Since being elected, I have met so many wonderful people in this area who share that same vision and who work tirelessly to make Galesburg a place we can all be proud to call home. It has been my pleasure to collaborate and learn from everyone throughout my tenure. Galesburg has so many passionate residents who want to see their community flourish and I am happy to have gotten to know so many of them along the way.

My tenure as Alderperson unfortunately did not go as planned. I recognize how my negative decisions have impacted not only myself, but my family, the Council, and my constituents too. My actions did not always match my character. I want to apologize to everyone...I let you down. I let myself and my family down as well. I ran for City Council to help Galesburg, but the best way I can help right now is to let go. The time has come for me to focus on my health and my family and to make the necessary steps to get my life back on track.

Thank you all for understanding my position and I sincerely wish all the best to Mayor Schwartzman, Galesburg City Council, City Administration and the people of Galesburg.

Respectfully, Russlay Helley