

January 27, 2012

Dear Friends,

Over the past nine months, I have received encouragement from a large cross-section of our community asking me to run for City Council in the April 2012 election. Old friends and new, we are drawn together by a common belief that the citizens of Sioux Falls deserve better representation. To have such broad-based support is quite humbling, and for that I am very grateful.

As I stated in my application to the City Council last March, one of the true joys and benefits in leading a community college is interacting daily with a diverse student body. Each day, we come to better understand and appreciate unique challenges, embrace our differences, support one another, and celebrate achievement. They inspire me to work on their behalf to make our community the kind of place where everyone feels that they can make a difference.

I believe that all of us have a responsibility to do whatever we can to improve the quality of life for one another. For this reason, I have accepted board leadership roles in 2012 with the Multi-Cultural Center, Sioux Falls Parks & Recreation, and the Sioux Empire United Way campaign. There are many ways to serve others in our community and, at this time, I believe these opportunities to be the most impactful.

Therefore, after much thought and consideration, I will not be seeking election to the Sioux Falls City Council in 2012. I am announcing my intent at this time in order to put rumors to rest and to strongly encourage others to consider this opportunity, as today is the first day for prospective candidates to gather petition signatures. Public service is a privilege and our community is *always* in need of new, thoughtful leaders.

Thank you for your support and friendship.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.