

6/26/2021

Colleagues, City Staff, and fellow Chicoans,

It is with hesitation and a lot of sadness that I submit my resignation from my seat as representative for District 3.

The job of council member often comes with many pitfalls, and most are well worth enduring for the great opportunity to serve this City that we love so much. When typical political fodder crosses into blatant disregard for the safety of a young family, I have to give the sacrifice serious thought.

After misled rumors were fed to media outlets, I discovered that my children and husband had been surveilled as a means to get to the bottom of rumors. No one contacted myself, no one contacted the City Clerk... the action taken was a frightening experience for my young children, and one I cannot easily justify.

My family has willingly endured all of the typical hardships of having a family member in public office, and they have done so with pride and purpose because they believed in what I was fighting for. I am so thankful to them for their patience, support, and willingness to be in the firing line for the sake of my position. My family is pretty amazing.

I cannot, as a Mother, rationalize with my young children that anytime there are rumors about Mommy, you might be watched through glass in doors, or from a car surveilling you from across the street. My children are frightened by what they've experienced, and it is far above and beyond what they have already so graciously tolerated. For that reason, I have to step down.

I am beyond blessed by this amazing community I call home, and look forward to finding ways to serve that don't put my family in a space of feeling frightened while in a place they should feel safe. I know this City has bright things ahead, and I hope the community can press the pause button and realize the damage being done as each side desperately tries to claim moral high ground at the expense of families who love this community just as much as they do.

It has been a joy and one of my biggest honors to serve Chico. My colleagues and city staff have been wonderful to work alongside and I pray for their wisdom and fortitude as they continue forward into the turbulent situation the City currently finds itself in.

This breaks my heart, truly. Serving in this capacity has been challenging, fulfilling, and groundbreaking. I am so devastated and still coming to terms with this decision.

In light of the fact that this decision comes from a place of deep desire to protect my family, I ask that the media, especially after the recent incident my family had with a "reporter", please respect my family's privacy as we move our lives out of this very public circumstance, and find a balance between my community advocacy and my family's safety and peace of mind.

Thank you,

Kami Denlay