



**Matt Zone** COUNCIL MEMBER, WARD 15

**COMMITTEES:** Safety - Chair • Finance - Vice Chair  
Health & Human Services • Operations

November 16, 2020

Dear Clerk Britt,

In 2001, I made one of the most difficult and invigorating decisions of my life and decided to run for Cleveland City Council in the neighborhood where I was born and raised. I decided to run because I knew improvements were needed in our community. Nearly two decades later, I am writing to inform you that after 19 years on council, I plan on resigning during the November 18<sup>th</sup> council meeting. This was a difficult decision to make; I love serving this city and particularly, the passionate members who call her home, but I'm excited about the next chapter.

I am extremely grateful for my dynamic colleagues, past and present, on Cleveland City Council, as well as the relationships with city administrators who have been working to support a more equitable Cleveland. I believe shared public endeavors strengthen us as nothing else can. A legislative body functions best when there is a sacrifice of individual gain for the collective good, when we are forged into better versions of ourselves. You have heard me say often that the institution of our council is bigger than any individual member. I truly believe this. Our strength grows through working together instead of simply acting for ourselves. So, please continue to create positive change for our city.

It has been my privilege and honor to serve as a member of council. It's the job of a lifetime and I'm thankful every day I was able to do it. I have always approached the work with full dedication and truly believe that my time on council will be the toughest, most rewarding job I will ever have. During my tenure, I've advocated for a more thoughtful, creative and responsible approach for city government. To accomplish this locally, I have always engaged our city's residents with an inspiring plan and made informed decisions that are based on evidence, community consultation and the merits of arguments - rather than a particular ideology.

As a long-held council tradition, I will be recommending Jenny Spencer as my successor. She is a long-standing Detroit Shoreway resident and has served as Managing Director of Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization since 2014. Jenny and I share the same passion and love for the Cudell, Detroit Shoreway and Edgewater neighborhoods.

It has been my sincere pleasure and honor to serve our city.

With gratitude,

*Matt Zone*

Matt

cc: Members of Council