

PRESS RELEASE

February 27, 2017

To: Mayor Wellman and City Council members:

“These are the times that try men’s souls.” This is one of my favorite quotes from the pamphlet “Common Sense.” This pamphlet as well as many others was composed by Thomas Paine. He was a journalist, an idealist and one of our country’s founding father.

In my mind these are indeed trying times. I am dissatisfied with the President Trump’s administration and the Republican Party on the national level. This dissatisfaction does not extend to the local city and county Republican Party. My concerns are only directed at the Republican Party on the national level.

President Trump, by virtue of winning the presidency, is the presumptive leader of the Republican Party. I cannot support a leader that I do not believe in, nor can I be part of an organization that has such a leader. I could not and would not support Mr. Trump during his campaign because of his actions and comments. These actions and comments have continued through his transition and now into his presidency.

The following has been quoted by many and expresses my sentiments, “This is not my father’s Republican Party.” With that said, I can honestly say that the Republican Party is not my political party either.

During the time that I have been associated with the city council, I cannot remember a single vote where party affiliation was a deciding factor. Once the election is over, the ads and political signs are gone, we come together. We debate the issues as one group and make the decisions that are necessary.

There is no political affiliation listed on our name plates. This is but one proof in my mind that political labels are not needed for all of us to work for the advancement of our community. I am extremely proud of the

accomplishments of the mayor and of this city council during the past several years.

Therefore, after much contemplation, I have decided to change my political affiliation from republican to independent. As far back as I can remember, there has always been a republican elected from my district. I am mindful of the fact that what I am doing is probably political suicide. I undoubtedly will lose widespread support. However, being true to my heart and following my moral compass is more important than my reelection.

I plan to remain on the city council until the end of my term. The decisions that I make will be the same no matter what political label, if any, I choose to use.

This decision has been a very hard one to make. I want to make it very clear that this decision has absolutely nothing to do with the inner workings of this council. The mayor and the council including myself have worked very well together, and I'm confident this working relationship will continue.

The chairperson of the Daviess County Republican Party has been notified of my decision.

Michael J. Singleton

Member Washington City Council

Washington, Indiana