

October 14, 2014

To the President of Bethlehem City Council,

With much sadness, I announce my resignation from Bethlehem City Council, effective November 1, 2014.

Being a Councilwoman in the great City of Bethlehem was an extraordinary honor, one I took seriously and will miss greatly in the future.

During my tenure, I tried to meet the expectations of the office: coming prepared to meetings, listening to citizen concerns, striving to improve our laws and codes, making difficult decisions, and acting in the city's best interest as well as I could.

Yet, I am flawed. I make mistakes, and I take full responsibility for my resignation. Still, this decision was not an easy one to make.

For years I was sure I would never move away from Bethlehem, that my husband John and I would live out our lives on Bridle Path Road overlooking Monocacy Creek, and our two sons would become independent but still choose to settle in Bethlehem or not that far away. It was a great dream.

But life is filled with uncertainties, and the unexpected can really throw us off balance. As philosopher Joseph Campbell wrote, "**We must let go of the life we have planned, so as to accept the one that is waiting for us.**"

Thank you to the women in our excellent City Clerks office: Cindy Biedenkopf, Nanette Snyder and Judy Kelechava, and to Council President J. William Reynolds, and all members of council: Bryan Callahan, Eric Evans, Michael Recchiuti, Cathy Reuscher, and Adam Waldron, as well our Mayor Robert Donchez and his entire staff.

My greatest hopes are with the leaders of this city, those on the inside and those on the outside, exercising their responsibility and right to influence change so Bethlehem progresses toward a future that is brighter, healthier, and kinder for everyone who calls it home.

Sincerely,

Karen Deirdre Dolan

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