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## It's Been an Honor to Serve

It is hard to believe that it's been four years since I took the oath of office to serve as your mayor. I was first sworn in on September 19, 2017 as interim mayor and then on January 2, 2018 as your elected mayor. The oath of office administered to elected officials in Utah includes the words "support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this State, and perform the duties of my office... with fidelity."

The dictionary definition of "fidelity" includes "*faithfulness to a person, cause, or belief, demonstrated by continuing loyalty and support.*"

As my term ends and I prepare to leave office, I want you all to know that I have done my best to live up to that oath. Everything I have done, and every decision I made was in faithfulness, loyalty, and support of this great city. Not everyone has agreed with every decision, but I have always done what I thought was right, and best for the city and its residents. Nothing was ever done for personal gain. Nothing. Ever.

Each mayor has challenges and difficulties while in office. My term as mayor included some exceptional challenges that I didn't see coming. Navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated conditions was a real test. As an administrative team, we had to make decisions based on limited information on how to keep our workforce and the public safe while still providing essential city services. Tough decisions were made regarding which facilities to keep open and which to close, what programs and services to provide, and what programs and services to postpone. I'm proud of our city staff for the way they stepped up and worked as a team to make and implement tough decisions in a complex and changing environment.

I fully expected to have our new city hall completed by the end of my term, but delays caused by complex cell tower negotiations, followed by supply chain and workforce shortages, have pushed the completion date out to early 2023. I am pleased that construction is back underway now, and we are now seeing progress on the site as masonry walls and steel are being erected. This will be a beautiful facility for our police department and general government functions that will serve Murray City well for many decades to come.



I have learned a lot during my time as mayor. At times I've been given too much credit for things that were going well and have taken blame for things that were beyond my control. That's part of the job. I'm pleased with the many improvements that we have made over the course of my term. There have been some issues and matters that I would have liked to have completed, but they will be left to those who follow.

I also express appreciation to the hard-working men and women, our city employees, who provide the city services that we all enjoy every day. It has been a pleasure working with you and I thank you for your dedication.

Murray will have some challenging times ahead with the difficult issues of smart growth, redevelopment, rising costs of providing services, public safety, and so forth, but we are in a good position to deal with those issues and Murray will continue to be a great place to live and work.

It has been my privilege to serve as your mayor, and I thank you for your support and encouragement. I have found the vast majority of Murray residents to be considerate and supportive. But now it's time to move on and let others take the helm. After nearly 40 years of public service, including eight years in elected office, I am looking forward to being a private citizen and spending more time with family and friends.

To those who have been elected to lead this city going forward, I wish you well, and urge you to lead "with fidelity." Donald Rumsfeld once said, "Enjoy your time in public service. It may well be one of the most interesting and challenging times of your life." Thank you, Murray City, for the interesting and challenging times that I had the opportunity to enjoy while serving as your mayor.