

## LETTER OF RESIGNATION

May 9, 2024

Mayor Justin M. Bibb  
601 Lakeside Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Mayor Bibb,

I am writing to inform you that I will be resigning from my position as Senior Advisor for Public Safety with the City of Cleveland, effective with the close of business today, May 9, 2024. While it has been an honor to join your administration, the politically motivated smear campaign initiated against me by select members of the City Council and the media has made it nearly impossible to focus on the work and to serve the City effectively. As a result, I have decided to tender my resignation.

As you know, I left my position with the Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department for one reason – to help you keep Cleveland safe. I uprooted my family and left a personal and professional life that I had spent nearly twenty years building. I made that decision because I believed, and continue to believe, in your vision for the City, and I wanted to help you achieve it.

I have dedicated my life to public service because I believe that government can make a difference in the lives of those we serve. As an officer, I solved problems daily in the community. As a homicide detective, I brought closure to countless families and removed violent offenders from neighborhoods they hurt. As a police leader and member of a chief's personal staff, I was the architect of citywide data and intelligence-led violent crime reduction strategies that are still being implemented to this day. These initiatives have resulted in significant reductions in violent crime in DC so far this year.

As you know, in my entire law enforcement career, I have never had a citizen complaint sustained and I have never used excessive force. I am not a liar and I have never acted with racial bias. Every interaction I had and decision I made was guided by an adherence to my oath of office, the law enforcement code of ethics, department policy, the Constitution, and my personal values and moral compass.

Disappointedly, since the announcement of my hire, I have been attacked and maligned by members of City Council and the media who have made demonstrably false and misleading statements about me and my career. Public servants should be held to a higher standard of scrutiny, and for the last month, I have candidly and truthfully embraced questions about my career. However, this campaign to assassinate my character and vilify me has made it nearly impossible to carry out the duties of the job that the vast majority of the community expects and wants me to do.

It is regrettable that I was not afforded the opportunity to succeed in Cleveland, and thus tender this resignation. I am confident that I would have been able to help you advance your vision for the City. However, I refuse to allow certain disingenuous media outlets and members of City Council to use me as a political punching bag to hurt you and to distract us from doing the vital work needed in their communities. I wish I could have had a fair opportunity to work with you and your administration to serve the citizens of Cleveland. However, I know this decision is in the best interest of the City and my family. I wish all the best for you and the residents of Cleveland.

Regards,



Phillip J. McHugh