



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

“America’s Most Livable City”

Office of Mayor William Peduto

December 7, 2017

Dear Mayor Peduto:

Over the past four years, you have afforded me the once in a lifetime opportunity to wake up every day and go to work for the residents of the City of Pittsburgh. There is no greater thrill than to work to change people’s lives for the better, rebuild the fabric of our city, and lead talented staff who share our commitment to honest and transparent government. I have worked diligently, every day, to honor our commitment to the residents of Pittsburgh and I have never once taken this position for granted.

Having been born and raised in South Oakland, it has been a dream job for me to help you manage our city’s transformation toward a more competitive, progressive, equitable and welcoming Pittsburgh. We started this journey together back in 2011 at the beginning of your campaign, and in 2013 you entrusted me with the honor of chairing your mayoral transition committee to assemble an administration from the ground floor. It truly has been an honor to work alongside you these past four years to rebuild a city government that our residents deserve. At the conclusion of your first term, and with congratulations on your re-election to a second term, I now reluctantly feel called to return to the private sector. While I will be resigning my service as Chief of Staff in January, 2018, I offer to remain as Chairman of the Urban Redevelopment Authority to continue building a more equitable Pittsburgh.

My family has humbly served the City of Pittsburgh for over 100 years. My great grandfather, Samuel Harris, first served as a Supervisor for our Department of Public Works in the early part of the 20th century. His son, my grandfather Charles Harris, served in the Fire Bureau for 34 years from 1948 until his retirement as Battalion Chief in 1982. I have fond memories as a child visiting Engine 14 on McKee Place in Oakland, and hopping in the back of his city vehicle on the way to active fire calls, long before child endangerment laws were enforced. His fire pension still supports my 92 year old grandmother; because firemen back then did not earn Social Security, to this day it is her only source of income.

My uncle Daniel Acklin served in the Fire Bureau for 20 years, retiring as a Captain in 2005. My stepfather, Al Meiers, has served the city for 40 years in the Department of Public Works, currently serving as acting Foreman in Heavy Equipment. He advanced his career without political connections, and his condition for my taking this job was that I would never treat an employee differently because of politics, and he has kept me loyal to that promise.

We have accomplished a lot together, and there still is a lot of hard work ahead of us. I stand ready to help you and our team continue to pursue our original mission of building the next Pittsburgh. Our best city assets are our employees and staff that we have working in city government. It has been an honor to serve with them, and they embody the lesson that there is no limit to what can be accomplished when nobody minds who gets the credit.

You trusted in me to serve the City of Pittsburgh at the highest level. You gave me the opportunity to make my family proud. For that, I am forever grateful. Thank you.

Your friend,

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