



Councillor Virginia Ridley, Ward 10

Wednesday November 7, 2018

Chair, members, staff and residents of London

RE: Last Council Meeting

Please accept my regrets for missing this last meeting of Council for the 2014-2018 term. I am away representing the city at FCM.

I would like to take this opportunity to share a few thoughts and comments.

First and foremost, I would like to say that it really was an honour and a privilege to hold the position of Councillor for Ward 10. When I began this journey, I did it because I had a vision for our community. I wanted to make positive change for the next generation and to help build a city where our children and their children would have opportunities to stay in this city and love it as I do. I am excited for the next chapter, for me, for my family, and for our city.

Through the support of our community, my family and friends, I have had the opportunity to work towards this vision. I worked hard every day. I made myself available to the community day in and day out. I spent time learning from the staff and from the residents, and learning how to get things done. My favorite moments were the times I spent time in my neighbours' living rooms, porches and kitchens; helping them to solve their problems or realize their visions. I helped the community realize that through their elected official that they have a voice. That government is not for the people, but that government is the people. That every voice matters and deserves to be heard.

I am ending my term very proud of the work that we as a council have accomplished and what I have contributed.

In November of 2014, Councillor Van Meerbergen stated that the 2010 - 2014 Council had left the city better than they found it and that he fully expected that the next council would leave the city better than they found it. I believe that we did. The 2014 - 2018 Council has completed a significant number of infrastructure projects, passed the London Plan, increased road safety and improved transit options for Londoners. London has been recognized as a leader at the provincial and federal level in many things. We should be proud of the accomplishments. I can say that we have left the city better than we found it, and that I fully expect that the 2018 - 2022 Council will do the same.

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I want to thank the people of Ward 10 for trusting me, teaching me, and supporting me. I never took lightly the trust of the community, and I worked hard everyday to serve you well.

I want to thank my colleagues for an amazing four years. Each of you bring a different perspective and point of view to our discussions and I learned so much from each of you. We all enter public service with the ideals and vision. We go about our work in different ways, but we come from the same place and do it for the same reason - to serve our community.

The work accomplished by council, has been achieved only through the dedication of the civil servants who took our vision and implemented it in the community. I would like to thank the entire City of London staff team who come to work every day to make the lives of the people of London better and for supporting council and councillors to make impacts in the community.

My family have been my biggest supporters, since always, but even more so over the past four years. It was never just me that served, it was my entire family. My accomplishments over this term of council, are theirs as well.

I wish the 2018-2022 Council all the best for a prosperous term. Work, work well, and work together, for the city's future is in your hands.

Virginia Ridley
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