

ANDREW TYLER BRADSHAW

CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

January 10, 2022

Today, I announce my resignation as Mayor of the City of Cambridge. I make this decision after a period of difficult self-reflection and after many hours and days of consideration toward the proper path forward for myself and for the City of Cambridge. Because of the legal matter in which I have been embroiled over the past several months, I no longer have the confidence of my colleagues on the City Council, nor have I been able to maintain the relationships with other local, state, and federal leaders necessary to move Cambridge forward at this time. Now, as we approach so many important crossroads for our City, I am unable to perform some of the tasks so important to ensure success for Cambridge.

I apologize to the citizens of Cambridge for having to make this decision, to those who have businesses here, to those who work here, and to all those who care about what becomes of this place. I know that when I was elected Mayor just over a year ago, the correct choice was made by the citizens of our City in the effort to move Cambridge forward and overcome so many of the difficulties we face. Yet, now, after so much faith and hope was placed in me by you all, I find myself unable to continue the job that was started. The actions for which I have been accused do not reflect my beliefs or my character; they are anathema to everything I hold in my heart and mind.

Now I must prove to myself and to all of you my worth and the value I will still provide to our community. I may be leaving office, but I am not leaving Cambridge, and I will remain stalwart in my dedication to making Cambridge a better home for all its citizens. I was dedicated to service for others prior to coming into the Office of Mayor, and I will continue my efforts to improve Cambridge in any way I can. I will remain visible in our community through business and volunteer activities, and I will remain available to anyone wishing to discuss what can be done to improve life in our City. I look ahead to being just as active in helping build a City in which we will all find pride.

As I mentioned, many important projects are coming to culmination in the upcoming months and years, in most of which I had become deeply involved, fighting to ensure their outcomes would be in the best interest of the people of Cambridge. Now, we must all come together as citizens and work together to ensure the outcomes are for our City's best. We must maintain requests to elected officials to continue fighting for safety in our City, making real efforts to equip our first responders rather than delaying necessary and past-due improvements. We must ensure our Council continues to make efforts to find a multifaceted response to the violence on our streets, rather than simply paying lip-service to the ongoing battle that is occurring. We must confirm that projects like the Hearn Building redevelopment will add to the vibrancy of our Downtown and our City, rather than becoming decades-long impediments to growth and progress. And, we must maintain a close eye upon the path the Cambridge Waterfront Redevelopment takes, guaranteeing that the project complements our City's numerous assets, while also examining the

decisions that are made to confirm the project's path benefits all, not just those connected to the redevelopment effort and their colleagues.

I will carry the burden of having need to step away those who put their trust in me for the rest of my days. I do not take anything that has occurred lightly. I again apologize from the deepest part of my heart and soul for having to make this decision. I would give all I have ever had to rewrite these circumstances.

I leave one final thought. John Wooden coached the University of California, Los Angeles Bruins to ten men's basketball national championships. Some years ago, he wrote, "Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are." My reputation right now has been nearly destroyed, and my motivations have been called into question, even by some who have known me for years and decades. Time must pass for a reputation to be regained, and, for some, nothing I do will ever be enough to prove my worth. Yet, my character is unchanged and my desire to make our community better and more whole has not wavered. Though I have placed myself in an embarrassing and damaging circumstance, all that I espoused and that I represented to you all was and is real. It is for that reason I take a step away from the Office of Mayor, to prove by my words and my actions, publicly and privately, the authenticity of my beliefs: by my character, I may someday regain my reputation.

I look forward to the next steps in life and continuing to make an impact for the people of Cambridge.