

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR SHEILA BRILLSON

“This is a bittersweet day for me. I have been honored and privileged to have served this community as an elected official for fifteen and a half years.

This morning I met with my department heads to speak to them privately about my future plans. Yesterday I mailed my letter of resignation as Mayor of Michigan City to the county clerk. The effective date is noon on July 1, 2003. I have spoken personally to Democratic Party Chairman Dr. Vidya Kora to inform him of my decision to resign five months before my term expires and to request that he call a caucus of the precinct committee members on June 7. I fully expect that the caucus will back the clear mandate of the voters from our May 6 primary and elect my controller, Chuck Oberlie, to serve as Mayor for the remainder of my term.

As your mayor, I have given you my very best efforts to guide this city forward, to improve our quality of life, to bring better services to you, the taxpayers, whom my team has been coached to serve as our “customers”. I, with the help of my great team of talented and focused managers, have accomplished the goals I set out to achieve. The city is in sound financial condition, projects are lined up in the “hopper” to be executed and I have done the job that you elected me to do, to the best of my abilities. I have made mistakes, no doubt- but I promised to be a mayor of action for ALL of the people and I tried to get things accomplished, rather than sit on the fence and try to be a people pleaser. I have been your mayor, leading with my head-using my talents and skills- and my heart- using my values and a sense of compassion.

Over the years, I have made thousands and thousands of decisions on your behalf. Now I am making a decision on behalf of my family and myself. My husband and I have purchased a home in Bellingham, Washington. We will begin our move this summer so that our children will have time to settle in before the start of the new school year. We have family in Bellingham and are going to be lucky enough to enjoy our new grandchild who is two months old.

At this moment, I do not have specific employment plans although I have some options to consider. However, my first order of business is to set up our new home and allow some time for rest. Being mayor has been a remarkable voyage for me but it is also very exhausting and after running for so many years, I need a rejuvenating rest before I plunge into a new job.

It has been a rewarding experience for me to serve you as your Mayor. I look back with a sense of satisfaction and look forward to the future with a sense of anticipation.

Thank you to all the wonderful people in this city and this county who have encouraged me, supported me and treated me and my family with kindness. You have made a difference in my life and I am better for knowing each one of you.”