

April 18, 2022

Honorable Mayor Elward and Members of the City Council
City of Rohnert Park
130 Avram Avenue
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Dear Mayor Elward,

I regret to inform you that I am respectfully offering my resignation from the Rohnert Park City Council. This resignation shall be effective upon appointment of my successor, but shall go into effect no later than May 25, 2022.

With the arrival of our twins, I will no longer be able to keep up with the demands of being an elected official and working a full-time job. This is an incredibly difficult decision to make, as I have learned so much and enjoyed being able to make transformational changes in our city.

I'm sure this decision will disappoint those that have supported me and for that, I am truly sorry. I hope you understand that as a father and husband, I am making the choice to prioritize my family. As someone that grew up without a father, I want to provide the opposite experience for my children and be as present as I possibly can.

Serving this community has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Although saddened by this difficult decision, I look forward to continuing to give back to my community in new ways.

They say the only constant is change and while this decision brings significant change for me, I am also proud looking back at the change we were able to accomplish here in Rohnert Park during my time on council including:

- Adding a Climate Change and a Racial, Social, Environmental Justice element to our General Plan
- Increased diversity on our boards and commissions
- Improved police accountability and community relations
- Reimagining Southwest Boulevard
- Upgrading the city to 100% renewable, locally produced energy
- Successfully applying for Project Homekey funding for transitional housing
- Commitment to Highway 101 overcrossing for pedestrians
- Launching the SAFE crisis response team
- The investment and improvement of communication between the city and residents

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Walter "Willy" Linares
Vice Mayor

cc: Darrin Jenkins