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July 16, 2018 Office of the Alexandria Mayor Alexandria, Louisiana

Alexandria, Louisiana—It is my honor to serve as a mayor—a uniquely intimate political position and one I can only describe as a once-in-a-lifetime thing to be blessed to do. From a grocery store aisle to a shared church pew—and, yes, even in council meetings—it is special, fun, unpredictable, and incredibly rewarding. I love Alexandria.

Your support, which we worked hard to earn, means more to me than any trappings of office ever could. You honored me with a career in public service, which I hope to continue for the rest of my life. Many of you have reached out personally to encourage me to run for a fourth term as mayor of Alexandria. Your support has been humbling. We raised record money and independent surveying shows our likely win over any rumored matchups—one-on-one or winning outright against any field.

Alexandria deserves and demands serious, ethical, and professional leadership.

It's a big responsibility, and frankly, I worried about a qualified field of candidates emerging, leading me to begin reelection activity. What has been my heart's desire to seek other opportunities was falling prey to a mayor's worry about whether a clear leader would emerge who would offer the kind of commitment we had, together. Of course, mayors start thinking there's just more to do, because making the city better never stops. It's never complete.

I am excited, resolute even, to be able to stick with my often-expressed belief in a self-imposed limit of three terms, just as we have in our state legislature. It allows new blood, fresh ideas, and new players, which are vital to democracies. I was given peace to get over my natural concerns as a mayor about continuity, and I have lots of new adventures ahead of me because of deferred aspirations.

We leave our city measurably better, and I hope the next mayor does too. So, I will not qualify this week for reelection. We know God will continue to bless this community. During the next months, our office will be busier than ever; we are completing our goals. So get ready. Wendy and I love Alexandria and will remain thankful to you.

