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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK 02-15-24 STATEMENT OF DERELICT OF DUTY

DEAR BOARD OF ALDERMAN:

Derelict. A person is derelict in the performance of duties when that person willfully or negligently fails to perform that person's duties or when that person performs them in a culpably inefficient manner.

Since being sworn into office on Thursday, April 23, 2023 this administration has faced opposition from the majority of the Board. Specifically Alderman James Thomas, Alderwomen Alease Dailes, Regina Harmon-Ward, and Alicia Smith. Also, there is a lack of cohesion and low productivity within the legislative branch.

I agree that there have been some genuine concerns about the financial health and other issues in our city. They have been prevalent for the last several years. Within the last 10 months this administration, staff and employees have been working tirelessly to and have rectified some challenges

I think it was disingenuous to try to hold the administration captive by motioning for a hiring and spending freeze while voting to give yourselves a raise in your proposed 2023–2024 budget. In addition, the Board does not have the authority to enact a hiring or spending freeze, unless it is put in an ordinance.

You have amended the majority of the agendas to prohibit citizens from being appointed to serve on the Board and commissions. This was done on three occasions. These Boards and commissions are critical and are needed to assist with serving citizens, and to help ensure that our government operates efficiently.

You voted not to approve my appointment of Mr. Wesley Gillespie to serve the unexpired term in Ward#1. This egregious action handicapped your colleague Alderwoman, Theresa Hester and disenfranchised 25% of our citizens. Also, it left them without equal representation in their government for 10 months.

You also removed a request to allocate money to hire essential employees for the public works and finance departments and a city administrator.

You have made accusations of me misusing the reimbursement policy and voted against reimbursing me for money that was spent on behalf of the administration, stating that I may have done something illegal. This allegation was never investigated by the Board. I offered proof of following proper procedures and even after doing so the majority of the Board (4) voted on two more occasions not to authorize reimbursement.

You have tried to damage my reputation by making allegations of misappropriation ("unauthorized, improper, or unlawful use of funds or other property for purposes other than that for which intended.") of federal funds. This serious, egregious statement can result in legal action being taken!

Also, not taking proper steps to obtain bids, purposely making the City lose grant funding. We didn't apply for the municipal parks grant because the Board of Alderman 2023- 2024 budget was not completed in time to allow for a grant application to be submitted.

The majority of the Board blamed me for making your budget late stating "I didn't allow the Board to schedule budget meetings." The Board has the authority to amend the agenda and has exercised this authority on several occasions.

During, the Board of Alderman meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2023 there was a statement read of no confidence in this administration. You encouraged media outlets to write a story citing "No Confidence." This story was reported on the front page of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, newspaper and online outlet.

Seven baseless allegations have been filed with the Missouri, Ethics Commission. Two allegations will be investigated because one involves alleged misappropriation of money, which was for the One-Time Municipal Administrative Pay for our employees. This issue was voted on October 5, 2023. The vote was three yes and three no. I broke the tie by voting yes to adopt the Resolution as it was and adding the verbiage Alderwoman Theresa Hester suggested.

The other is alleged violation of a City Ordinance. Not getting 3 bids for work that was done to clean and sanitize the police, public works and administration departments vents and carpets, stating that the work was in excess of \$10,000. There were three bids submitted and five companies contacted for cleaning vents. There was one contacted for shampooing and sanitizing all carpets. We also did BBB reports.

The cost of cleaning the police department was \$6200, the administration building was \$5700, and cleaning carpet \$1324. One company won the bids for all. We cut one check for \$13,324. Proper procedures were followed.

These actions have deterred conversations with potential developers and businesses from considering being a part of the Economic Blueprint in our City. In other words, they are not coming!

While doing all of this, you have failed to create or revise any legislation within the last 10 months to help enhance the health, safety and wellbeing of citizens of this “Great City”

Your continued disregard for the health, safety and well-being of citizens, employees, staff and police officers is very destructive and has created a toxic environment.

There has been a lot of damage done, and it’s evident that the majority of this Board does not want to work collaboratively with this administration.

April 3, 2023 the citizens voted for me to serve as Mayor and I still have 3 years and 2 months, that’s 1,167 days to go. I will continue to serve with dignity, truth and full transparency.

Your Servant Leader
Mayor Reverend Dinah Tatman