

Dear Chapel Hill Community,

Today I want to share with everyone that I've made the difficult decision not to seek re-election.

It has been an honor serving the people of Chapel Hill, and I want to begin by thanking everyone for your support. I came into this job in 2015 because I cared about our future and knew we needed to make better choices in order to be sustainable and resilient economically, environmentally, and socially. Over almost eight years we have all worked extremely hard to put our community on a better path toward that future.

From the outset, we used data, analysis, experts, and input from the community to help us understand where we are and to determine where we need to go. Today, I am proud of the significant progress we have made and want to take this opportunity to share with everyone what we've learned and what we've accomplished along the way.

### *1. Economic development and rebalancing the tax base*

For years, it has been apparent that we must create a more balanced commercial tax base in order to bring good jobs and more revenue for the things we care about like affordable housing, parks and greenways, art, and climate action.

In 2016, facing a stagnant office market, we pulled together members of the business and university community, gathered data, and learned from other communities. We acted on what we learned, creating the Millhouse Road Enterprise Zone and implementing a performance-based incentive plan to recruit good companies like Wegmans and Well Dot to Chapel Hill.

### *2. Smart planning to achieve our goals*

When I took office, we had a comprehensive plan with good values, but no roadmap for achieving progress. Starting with creation of our Affordable Housing Master Plan in 2017, the town has worked on and adopted a number of plans aimed at moving us forward, culminating in the Complete Community framework.

The results speak for themselves. We have created more affordable housing than ever before, are on track to meet our Climate Action goals, and have a clear plan for creating the places and connections that will help our community thrive.

### *3. Charting new courses and taking bold action*

Moving Chapel Hill forward has required the Council to take some bold steps.

Our first was the decision to purchase the Legion property to expand park space in eastern Chapel Hill and create more affordable housing near schools, transit, jobs, and shopping. We learned that life sciences and entrepreneurship are our competitive niche, and we made a strategic investment in a downtown parking deck to catalyze this kind of redevelopment. And we've joined with UNC in the Downtown Together Partnership to

jump-start the Innovation Hub that is bringing year-round workers, and their spending power, to downtown and making it a more vibrant place for everyone.

*4. Living our values, lifting up our community*

We've done amazing work toward realizing Chapel Hill's longstanding commitment to being a community where everyone is welcome, included, and can thrive. The Historic Civil Rights Task Force shined a light on our Civil Rights past. We fulfilled a long-overdue promise to bring water and sewer service to the Rogers Road Neighborhood. And through initiatives like the Reimagining Community Safety task force, we are taking important steps toward ensuring a just and equitable future for all Chapel Hillians.

**We need to stay focused and committed to these goals.**

During my time as your mayor, we put the framework in place to ensure a future that is inclusive, productive, and that nurtures a strong, diverse community. Many of the decisions we faced were hard, but we knew that this progressive vision and its implementation are crucial to the long-term health of our entire community. Now is not a time to pause or reverse course.

Over my more than thirty plus years of volunteering and public service in our community, it has been my pleasure to meet and work alongside so many interesting and passionate people in our community who are working toward that better future for all Chapel Hillians.

I join them in caring deeply about our community and will be ready to support efforts that continue to make us a more vibrant, sustainable, inclusive, and just place for everyone.

In gratitude,

Mayor Pam