

These past three and a half years have been life-changing for me. I have learned how American democracy really works; and I have learned from the best.

My mayor, Joe Riley has shown me from week to week and month to month that a successful municipal government is a cumulative negotiation-- one small victory at a time, added to another small victory and then another and another-- until all of these individual negotiations come together to create the framework upon which a great city is built and maintains its greatness.

I have learned from my colleagues on Council that the things I want for my district, they also want for theirs. One neighborhood improvement has a positive effect on the adjoining neighborhood; then *that* neighborhood can build on that... and so forth; until all of the interlocking parts of the city reflect upon one another to create a great city *character*, like the one here in Charleston we are privileged to be a part of.

When you look at this job in those terms, you begin to understand the great responsibility that we, who seek to hold a public office must aspire to.

I won't say that my first foray into public service has been easy. As a matter of fact, some of it has proven to be downright difficult. But overall, I would have to say that the time I have spent, to date, in public life has been wonderful. It has been time well spent, for me and hopefully for the constituents I have endeavored to serve.

But all good things must come to an end, even for a short time. Now I realize that this announcement today will be a surprise for many of you, even for some of my colleagues. So I will get right to the point:

After careful consideration, I have decided that at this time in my life, I wish to focus my energies and elsewhere for a time. To that end, several opportunities have been presented to me that I simply cannot pass up. I shall keep you all informed.

Is there a future for Tim Mallard in political life? All I can say is that I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT THERE IS!

I sincerely wish to thank all of my friends, family and constituents who have stood behind me, not only with their financial contributions but also emotionally, spiritually and most of all with their ideas. I also wish to thank those of you in the press who have attended my press conferences and briefings and who have made an honest effort to be fair and accurate in your reporting.

That's all for now, folks. Don't forget about me. I swear I will not forget about you. It's been real.

Timothy Seabrook Mallard