

Dear Members of the Board of Ethics,

I am writing to you directly regarding the matter currently before this Board. I have resigned my seat as the District 1 representative on the Denton City Council, effective August 15th, 2026, and I write now not in my capacity as a council member, but as a private citizen and a fellow member of this community who wishes to be honest with you and with the public I was entrusted to serve.

First and foremost, I want to offer my sincere apology. My service in public office carried with it a duty to uphold the trust and confidence of the residents of Denton. Whatever the Board ultimately concludes about the specific allegations under review, I do not dispute that my conduct during this period fell short of the standard the community is entitled to expect of those who hold public office. For that shortcoming, and for the embarrassment and concern my actions have caused the City, the Council, and the residents of Denton, I am genuinely sorry.

The Board has a process for evaluating the complaint, and I respect that process. What I am acknowledging, and what I believe I owe the community regardless of the outcome of this proceeding, is that I failed the people who placed their faith in me, and that my personal conduct during this time was not worthy of the office I held.

I share this because I believe accountability begins with honesty. Over the past several months I have been confronting, openly and with professional help, severe depression and a long struggle with substance abuse. I am in the midst of my sobriety journey, and I am actively working, day by day, to address the addictions that fueled decisions and behaviors I deeply regret. That work is ongoing, and I do not claim to have it fully behind me. But I am committed to it, and I am committed to making amends for the past mistakes that those addictions helped bring about.

I recognize that personal difficulties are not an excuse, and I do not offer them as one. They are offered instead as context, and as evidence of my commitment to taking real, corrective action rather than simply offering words. Part of making amends means facing this Board's review with candor and respect, accepting responsibility for what was within my control, and allowing the process to proceed without obstruction or evasion.

I have already stepped away from public office so that the residents of District 1 can be represented as they deserve. I will continue to cooperate with the Board's proceedings and will respond in good faith to any further inquiry. I ask only that the Board evaluate this matter fairly, and that it extend to me the same opportunity for due process that the residents of Denton would expect for any member of their community.

Thank you for your time, your service to the City, and your consideration. I am sorry for the position in which my conduct has placed this Board, the Council, and the community, and I will continue to do the work necessary to earn back, over time, the trust I have lost.

Respectfully,

Jordan E. Villarreal
Former Council Member, District 1
City of Denton