



Office of the Mayor

James J. Schmitt
Mayor

Good Morning,

Thank you for attending this short yet important press conference.

16 years ago today, October 1, 2002, I stood here in St. James Park, with many of you and announced my decision to run for Mayor of Green Bay.

And what a great decision that was, for me, my family, and the city of Green Bay.

We've accomplished a lot together in a relatively short period of time. Our Downtown is strong with Nicolet Bank, Schreiber Foods Offices, Associated Bank headquarters, the Railyard, Hagemeister Park, and of course the City Deck. It's odd to think that prior to us getting here there was no Famers' Market on Broadway, or "Fridays on the Fox," or (my favorite event) Kids' Day, which I started the year I was elected. Now we have over 10,000 kids who participate each and every year.

Together we weathered the storm of the great recession and experienced some terrific development opportunities like Metreau housing development, City Deck Landing apartments, Green Bay Packaging, Backstage at the Meyer, Breakthrough Fuels, Foxconn, and the Zippin Pippin.

I've enjoyed being a visible Mayor. I attended over 500 events a year, from Eagle Scout ceremonies to 100 year-old birthday parties, to charity walks and runs. If they wanted the Mayor there, I did my best to be there.

But its decision-time again, and on this October 1st 2018, we've decided to step aside and vote for someone else to lead this great city.

I'm not done today; I have every intention of finishing strong. In the next six months I will:

- Cut the ribbon to celebrate the grand opening of the hotel northland
- Cut the ribbon the Foxconn's new innovation center
- Cut the ribbon our bay beach new 100 ft. Ferris wheel
- And complete the fundraising goal for Bay Beach expansion
- Ill also break ground on the reconstruction of Webster Ave



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- Break ground on the shipyard
- Cut the ribbon on the Nature's way expansion
- Announce a new corporate headquarters in our downtown,
- And we'll finally get an agreement to move those damn coal piles

But there is so much more to do in our community if we are indeed are going to retain and attract talent for our future growth. We need to really look at regional government, technology enhancements, opportunity zones, and more innovative educational opportunities. I have the energy and enthusiasm to do much more here, but I really feel that I want to begin another chapter in my life.

It's going to be interesting not to be on the ballot (like I've been for the past 20 years) but to be a concerned citizen, like many of you.

Dona and I won't get involved in the mayor's race...but we will vote.

And after the election, I will offer to be a resource to the new mayor, should they want my input. It's a job someone will grow into, and learn to love, just as I did.

In closing, I do want to again say that I've really enjoyed being the Mayor of Green Bay. We've created over a billion dollars of economic development and numerous jobs and opportunities.

With that said, politics at times can be a blood sport; things are said in the heat of battle that probably could have been said in a better way. If I've offended anyone with my words or my decisions, I sincerely apologize.

My goal has always been to do what's in the best interest of Green Bay. My passion and drive at times may have been too strong. And for that I'm sorry.

It's been a great 16 years, and I've truly loved each and every day. I'm planning my celebration party for this coming March, and you'll all be invited.

I want to thank my wife, my children, and all of you for supporting me and more importantly the City of Green Bay.