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> From: Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas <mark@markridley-thomas.com>

> Date: Wed, Feb 23, 2022 at 6:45 AM

> Subject: just yesterday

> To: Friend,

>

> Less than 24 hours ago, Council President Nury Martinez engineered a

> vote to replace me, my voice and my vote with her hand-picked choice.

> As you can imagine this is a huge problem for me legally and

> politically. They effectively denied me the presumption of innocence

> and nullified the votes of CD10 constituents. They would not even

> wait a few days for constituents to receive their day in court.

>

> Tenth District voters deserve a voice willing to stand up to the

> status quo leadership that cavalierly disposes of aspirations for

> equal protection and voting rights. This is the same leadership that

> witnessed the humanitarian crisis of homelessness expand in their

> neighborhoods and in nearby communities in relative silence.

>

> We deserve elected representation that is accountable to voters in the

> Tenth District – not the political shenanigans of the City

> Council--the majority of whom are currently seeking higher office or

> reelection.

>

> For the record, the Council has the legal option to reinstate me.

>

> This is especially the case when the action to suspend me was without

> a hearing, was with selective input from CD10 constituents and was

> lacking a City Charter mandate - effectively disenfranchising all of

> my constituents. Nothing in the City Charter compelled my suspension,

> particularly since the alleged activities of which I am accused were

> not even related to City Hall, according to the lawsuit filed by

> district-based plaintiffs last Friday.

>

> I want to be clear: voters in the Tenth District deserve

> representation – accountable elected representation that is committed

> to the values and platform that garnered over 60% of the votes that

> placed me on the City Council in the first place. Representation that

> places a value on the presumption of innocence, due process and voting

> rights...accountable representation that wields the authority to empower

> communities and not just for power's sake.

>

> One of the consequences of the Council action in October was to strip

> me of my pay and benefits, including health insurance. And because I

> won't give up my seat and turn my back on my constituents, I am

> prohibited from earning outside income...at the very moment I really

> need resources for my legal defense.
>
> Toward that end, I am organizing a robust legal defense to secure my
> livelihood, my reputation and my legacy. But, I can't do this without
> your help.
>
> Can you help me with a donation to my legal defense fund?
>
> Donate Online Here
>
> You know me. You know my heart. You know I wouldn't be asking if I
> didn't need you now.
>
> This experience has been both humbling and humiliating and to all of
> you who have reached out to me this last month - thank you. The
> maximum that any person can give to help is \$1,600, and if you haven't
> yet done so, I hope that you will consider pitching in what you can
> today.
>
> Finally, if you are willing to put in some time, please also consider
> writing a letter on my behalf to appeal for my reinstatement to
> Council President Martinez.
>
> With hope,
> MRT