

Mayor and Council – Thank you for considering my comments.

As a private citizen and as someone speaking on behalf of the Stop the Recall effort, I'll be honest: it's been a rough couple months. The things we have been through this spring are things I never thought I would have to deal with in my hometown. Personal attacks, outright lies, people going door to door to try to dismantle this town. We are living in a community divided.

Some blame you for dividing this community, and I tell you right now that that is certainly not the case. The decisions made by you, our duly elected mayor and council, have been difficult and for the most part, correct. You have had vision for our town and the courage to do what is right, in spite of the constant obstacles being thrown in your path by people who don't understand what it means to be part of a representative government.

No, the people who are dividing this community are the ones supporting a recall of more than half of you. Differences of opinion exist in any group, but to use a difference of opinion as a reason to pull four exceptional leaders from their positions is wrong. They say that a recall is a valid tool of our form of government. I say just because something is legal doesn't make it right, and it is absolutely not right in this case.

I have witnessed lies being told by RecallCDA in an attempt to get signatures. I have witnessed vicious attacks on people's character and that of their families. I have witnessed baseless claims of personal interest, intimidation, and retaliation being lobbed about with nothing to back it up. I have heard the same inaccurate information repeated over and over again in regards to your actions, votes, and opinions. I have heard despicable things coming from the mouths of some members of this community, and it saddens me that they think such negativity is what's best for this town.

But I'll tell you what else I've witnessed. I've seen people standing up to support you and your decisions, decisions that truly are going to benefit everyone in this town. I've seen people who have never been involved in community issues before ingrain themselves in the situation. I've seen people shouting the truth with as much enthusiasm as they can muster, even though they know that sometimes it falls on deaf ears.

Those who claim that it didn't have to come to this are absolutely right. It didn't have to come to this, so why did they make it happen? It's incredibly disingenuous to claim that their hand was forced. If someone disagrees with your decisions, it is their right to vote for someone else in the next cycle. To make you fight for your jobs – a job that the majority of voters elected you to – while still doing your jobs everyday is a shameful misuse of the system.

Most of you continue to listen to the citizens of this town and vote your conscience, knowing your actions are imperative to keeping Coeur d'Alene moving in a positive direction. Thank you for listening to me and many of my fellow citizens, knowing that when RecallCDA demands effective leadership, as Mr. Orzell did at a previous council meeting, we have the insight to recognize that we already have it.

Thank you.