

Retirement Announcement September 12, 2018

Good evening everyone,

It is with many sleepless nights that I have decided to withdraw my name for re-election for Ward 8 Councillor of the City of Markham.

After 33 years of service to this amazing City, you can imagine that this is not an easy decision. There is a saying, "Life is short," however there is also another, "Time passes quickly when you are having fun," and what fun it has been.

When I was first elected in 1985, I promised my wife Alicia that my run would only be one or two terms, IF I was lucky. 10 elections later, I'm still here.

Being on Markham Council has been an honour. I am grateful to the residents of Ward 8 for electing me to represent them, over and over. It has been a pleasure representing your needs at Council. It has also been a privilege to be part of a Council that made a little farm town grow into a well built and planned City, and, I am pleased to have championed the name change from "Town" to "City".

While ensuring Ward 8 residents were well represented and offering the Ward up for pilot projects of new City initiatives was always my primary role, I also enjoyed being a team player in larger City events. From Co-chairing the City's Canada Day festivities, to the Mayor's Annual Chinese New Year Dinner, and chairing Flato Markham Theatre's Discovery Gala, these events established more friendships and connections across the City.

My childhood hero, Dr. Jose Rizal said, "*He who does not know how to look back at where he came from will never get to his destination.*" When I was a young man, I traveled to North America on my own. I had no where to stay and so I spent the first few nights of life in North America in a YMCA. This is why giving back to the community has always been, and will always be, important to me.

It has been my honour to help those who give back to the community. From larger charitable groups like the YMCA, to all three York Region Hospitals, and the York Regional Police Community Safety Village, to international disasters in need of funding or home goods, to smaller local charities such as S.E.A.S., CHERish, the Federation of Chinese Canadians of Markham, and the Markham Federation of Filipino Canadians, to building a community of homes in the Philippines which I named "Markham", it has been an absolute honour sharing the stories of those in need in order to help make our world brighter.

It has been a wonderful 33 years. My wife reminds me that I promised her only 6 years of service. My daughter reminds me that I was going to retire 3 elections ago. My son, who I lost to ALS almost two years ago, reminds me that life truly is short. It is now time to perfect my golf swing, travel the world, and focus on my vegetable garden.

I would like to thank all of the people I have worked with over the years who have become good friends. There are many of you and I look forward to lunches with you soon. A special thank you to my friend, our Mayor, Frank Scarpitti, and our CAO Andy Taylor who have provided many years of guidance and friendship.

Thank you to our amazing City staff, including our Commissioners, our Clerk and a special thank you to my assistant Renee. No matter how big or small a job, no matter how late or early a meeting, Renee always responds with a smile and patience.

Of course no thank you will ever be big enough to my wife Alicia for supporting me and still loving me throughout these 33 years. And thank you to my children Cherrie-Marie and Christopher, who were my first and most loyal campaigners.

The City of Markham has come a long way since 1985 and I am so proud to have been a player in her development. I look forward to watching from the sidelines now as she continues to grow and flourish.

Thank you!

Alex Chiu
Ward 8 Councillor
City of Markham