

March 23, 2020

Lisa Morrell, City Manager
City of Palm Bay

Mrs. Morrell:

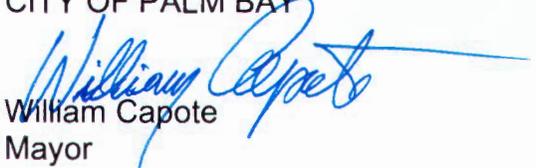
This letter serves as my official notification to you and to the Palm Bay City Council that I, Mayor William Capote, have no confidence in your ability to serve Palm Bay as our City Manager. The reasons for this letter are set forth below.

The City of Palm Bay has a council-manager form of government. Pursuant to the City of Palm Bay's Charter, "(t)here shall be a city manager who shall be the chief executive and administrative officer of the city." To effectively serve as the chief executive and administrator of the city, the City Manager must possess excellent leadership and communication skills. I have become increasingly concerned about your communication with the City Council and the public in general and during this pandemic in particular.

During a pandemic such as the Covid-19, it is imperative that the City Manager provide regular information and reports to the City Council. Moreover, an effective leader must be able to provide information to the City Council and to members of the public that addresses the serious issues that the City faces during this health crisis. Action must be taken that is decisive and timely and it must be communicated clearly and accurately to the public. The pandemic has members of the community concerned. It is expected that the City Manager would understand and address the issues and concerns of the public. Unfortunately, I have found the dissemination of information to the public to be atrocious. The messaging to the public has been muddled and you have failed to be sufficiently proactive in communicating with the media and the press to ensure that important information is disseminated to the public in a timely manner. For example, you provided information concerning the closure of City Hall to the public while simultaneously providing policies to staff for visitors during the same time period.

You have not demonstrated the leadership or communication skills needed to effectively serve as City Manager. I therefore request that you tender your resignation.

CITY OF PALM BAY


William Capote
Mayor

Legislative Department