

County of Santa Clara

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George M. Shirakawa
Supervisor Second District

STATEMENT FROM SUPERVISOR GEORGE SHIRAKAWA REGARDING RESIGNATION FROM OFFICE AND ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY

It's with great sadness that I announce today my resignation from the office of County Supervisor. I will plead guilty on, March 18, 2013, to the charges filed today by the District Attorney's Office that are related to my campaign finance reports and inappropriate use of my county credit card.

The charges relate to failure to file campaign finance reports, filing inaccurate reports and delayed repayment of credit card charges. Although I have previously repaid most of these credit card charges, and will repay the balance, the charges should never have been made. I apologize for my actions.

For years, I have suffered from depression and a gambling addiction. Unfortunately, my gambling addiction went untreated for too long which led to bad decisions and actions that I deeply regret. I have been in ongoing medical treatment for my addiction and depression. Addictive behavior is not an excuse for my conduct, there is only one person responsible for my conduct and that person is me. It has been through the treatment process that I realize that I need to accept responsibility for all of my actions. That starts today.

I have always worked hard to serve my community and to put their interests first. It's with that thought in mind, that I resign from office today. Our community can now move forward and focus on the critical public health and safety issues that affect our families. This community has nurtured and raised me for 50 years and elected me for 20. I will always be grateful for the immense ongoing support from my community, and it has been an honor to work on their behalf to achieve positive improvements to their quality of life. To all my constituents, I am truly sorry for my actions and for any pain I have caused you.