



September 16, 2016

Chamber PAC members:

Although I have met with and talk to some of you, others I have never had a chance to speak with one-on-one. I thought it would be helpful to share my positions directly, to clear up any misrepresentations or misunderstandings.

The core issue, from my perspective, can be stated very simply: I do not support, condone, or tolerate discrimination based on skin color, gender, orientation or faith. Period.

The genesis of the confusion was my response to a verbal question on the phone many months ago: I was asked if I supported discrimination against business owners based on their faith. I said no. There was a follow-up asking if I supported protection from discrimination. I replied "of course."

Later a printed flyer stated that "I support legislation that would prohibit discrimination against individuals, organizations and small businesses because of their belief that marriage is only a union of one man and one woman." Although they printed "Y" for my answer, I have repeatedly said that such a law would not be constitutional and would not garner my support.

Should I be fortunate enough to be elected to the San Jose City Council, I will not support any ordinance that will deny members of the LGBTQ community the same rights and freedoms that every citizen enjoys. I am not, and will not be campaigning on any such issues. The grave issues that San Jose faces are too important to allow for distractions or hindrances in our efforts to find common solutions and move forward together as one community.

I regret that I have thus far been unable to correct the false impression left by this flier and inaccurate reports about my position. I am also pained that any members of our community are under the false impression that I am somehow not sympathetic to their concerns, hopes and struggles. I look forward to sitting down with all San Joseans and District 2 residents, including members of the LGBTQ community in the coming days to share my heart with them, and above all, to listen and learn so that I'm prepared to be the best Councilmember that I can be.

As a Christian, my faith calls me to love my neighbor - not to hate or ostracize anyone who doesn't look like me or act like me. For me, this election is about who has the experience and ability to make neighborhoods safer, help businesses create jobs, create sensible budgets, fix roads, and make housing more available and affordable, and these would be my priorities if elected.

I understand some PAC members wish to rescind support of my campaign. At the very least, I would hope that before taking such a draconian step, you would at least allow me the opportunity to come before you – so you can hear directly from me what I think without the filter of media or individuals with their own perspectives.

I am grateful for the endorsement and the support the Chamber has provided to me and my campaign. I will work hard to honor that support and to be a City Councilmember who represents all the people of San Jose.

Respectfully,

*-Steve Brown*