

May 27, 2022

Re: Notice of Withdrawal

Mayor Biss,

I am writing today to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to the City Council for selecting me among the many highly qualified candidates to be your next City Manager. Evanston is a tremendous community, and there are real opportunities for a qualified and skilled local government professional to make a positive impact on the City. However, it is with a great deal of disappointment and sadness that I must inform you that I am not able to accept the offer.

I appreciate how you and the Council worked with me to try to come to reasonable terms of employment that would guarantee both the City's desire for continuity and stability of leadership and my own similar needs. However, it has become clear as my wife and I explored the housing market and the costs of relocation that the City's interpretation of the terms would not be effective to accomplish the needs I had discussed with you and other City officials, and the understanding I thought we had.

I asked the City Council to consider restructuring some of the compensation (without increasing it) to facilitate down payment assistance on a house and relocation costs. Thank you to Council for taking the time to meet and consider my request. Sadly, I cannot accept the position to become your next City Manager under the terms offered. Specifically, I cannot finance relocating our family and acquiring housing within the timelines contemplated in the contract and without serious inconvenience and hardship on our family.

I thank you very much for all the time you have put into this process. I too invested quite a bit of time and my personal resources, and I too am disappointed I could not find a way to accept this opportunity. With gratitude and thanks, I wish you the best of luck in your search.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Fournier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Fournier" clearly legible.

John Fournier