

Dear Friends and Neighbors --



I am late in offering my thanks for the kind words and thoughts that have been sent my way in recent days as I retire as City Manager of Newport Beach. I apologize that I did not respond to each email more personally, but please know that I read them, smiled, and thought of the person sending it along very fondly. I hope that as the years go by, I will still remember the faces, smiles and kind words from each of you.

It has been the honor of my career to work in, work for and serve this community. People here are complex, interesting, engaged, thoughtful, kind, caring and all of the things that a city official might have hoped for when coming here. Working in an engaged place is so much more interesting and fun than one where you really have to activate community participation. Thank you for that. Keep doing that, regardless of your politics or specific interests. Our society suffers when people don't participate in their local government (other levels of government, too – but local is particularly important).

As Tom and I head off to northern California (likely in December 2018), where I grew up, I will indeed plan on enjoying our “time remaining” with more family around, good hiking, good workouts, good volunteering, almost no neckties, no business suits, and some good books. But please know that nothing will top my 20.5 years here. Sure it'll be different, and it will be great. But there won't be better memories.

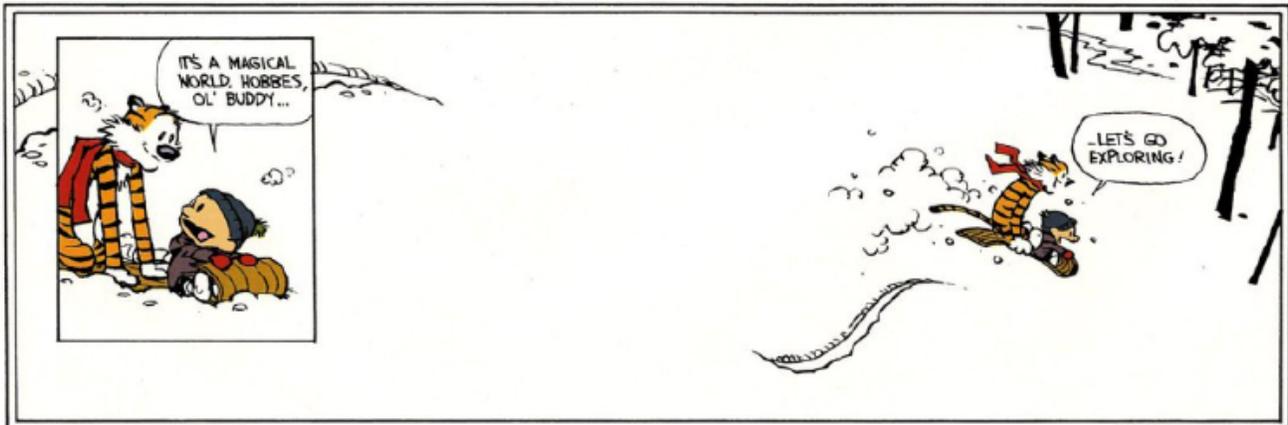
For the community I am leaving, the great city of Newport Beach, I know that you are left in very good hands. I have known and interacted with Grace Leung a number of times in recent years, and know her to be thoughtful, humble, kind, smart, innovative, and possessing of an enthusiasm that I think I may have had something close to, once ☺. I am happy to hand the reins of the City Manager's office over to her, under the direction of your City Council. Grace will be her own person – no one should be the mirror image of one's predecessor. There will be new ideas, different approaches, and old things ending as new ones start. That is as it should be. Perfectly as it should be.

I leave you with (below) the last day (December 31, 1995) that Bill Waterson drew my all-time favorite comic. When that day came to end “Calvin and Hobbes”, it was both sad and heartwarming. With those same emotions, it's time for me to go exploring what's next.

I thank you very sincerely for being a part of my experience here and for what you bring to this community on so many levels. I have come out a better person because of my interaction with you.

Warmly,

Dave Kiff
Almost Retired City Manager



The Final *Calvin and Hobbes* Comic Strip
By Bill Waterson – December 31, 1995