

May 23, 2010

## OPEN LETTER TO THE RESIDENTS OF FLOWERY BRANCH

Today's letter is probably one of the most difficult things I have ever written, and I do so with extremely mixed emotions. Effective May 31st, I am announcing my resignation as your Mayor. The past four and a half years in public office have been the most rewarding part of my entire professional life. I thank you for allowing me the privilege of this honor.

During my time in office, my main priority has always been how to best work with the many wonderful people in our community to make Flowery Branch a better place to live. The residents have always come first. I am fortunate to have worked with dedicated city councils to hire a professional staff as devoted to Flowery Branch as our elected officials are. Working together, we have brought many positive changes to our city, including major retail and commercial growth to provide a tax base for our developing community, an increasing stable environment for new families, and forging strong alliances with neighboring communities. But there is much left to do.

After 18 positive and productive years in Flowery Branch, my husband, Bob, and I have made the difficult decision to leave North Georgia and return to South Florida to enjoy our retirement in the warm Florida winters.

It is now time for new mayoral candidates to step forward and for the citizens to weigh their choices and elect my successor. It is my hope that future leadership will continue to move Flowery Branch further in the positive direction we have all worked so hard to achieve.

Flowery Branch will always be my home away from home. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your mayor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane C. Hirling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Diane C. Hirling