

Mr. Mayor & Members of Council,

This may echo some of Mr. Tuten's remarks, but I'm going to say them anyway. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly express my appreciation to the police and fire departments, to the City Staff including Susan, Christi, Kathy, Bob, Cheryl and especially Mike Vonderbrink and his staff for the great job they did during the disaster crisis. The Saturday and Sunday after the tornado hit I was out delivering boxes to the affected residents. Their comments were very complimentary towards the City Staff. They said the city was doing a great job supporting the residents.

I was at the Service Center from Saturday April 10th through last Saturday April 17th from 6:30 AM until 8 – 9 PM every day. I am not trying to blow my own horn but my point is that our Service Department guys were right there with me and their actions were heroic. The other communities that helped us and supported our efforts were just wonderful. Guys from the service departments of Indian Hill, Madeira, Mason, Fairfield, Evendale, Springdale, Mt. Healthy, MSD (yes MSD), City of Cinti, ODOT among others I can't recall. To give you some idea of how huge this effort was we were processing on Monday and Tuesday about 150 dump trucks an hour from 8 AM to 4 PM – hauling debris in and chips out.

Volunteers from the Assembly of God and the Red Cross kept the drivers from being thirsty and hungry by supplying us with food and drinks. They helped me keep some semblance of order during the hectic days keeping the drivers happy. Food came from Kroger's, LaRosa's, Frisch's, Perkins', Montgomery Inn, Bonnie Lynn Bakery, Grote Bakery and many others to numerous to mention.

I have traveled the world and have seen a lot of devastation, but have never seen the outpouring of help that I saw since the tornado, helping our neighbors struggle through. . .

I want to say I am proud to be from Montgomery.