

As Mayor, elected to represent all the City of Corsicana population, it is my responsibility to provide stewardship. We are experiencing a divide in Corsicana over the removal of a park animal statue, which is challenging how we view each other's opinions.

Although many people provided input, the decision to alter the animal display in Community Park was made by me, after talking with City Council members, City Administration and many citizens I have known and worked with over the years. Alternatives were discussed, such as removing the statue permanently, leaving it as it was, or alter and reinstall it. The varied opinions presented were formed by each contributor's personal experience.

In the novel, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Atticus Finch best describes what we are striving to do with the input we have received: "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it."

I stand by my decision and the City's upcoming plans to display it in a manner which is intended to be a safe play environment with no message. It will be returned without the cage and displayed in a life-like manner. The statue will be reinstalled as soon as weather and resources permit.

As Mayor, I rely on the City Council to provide information from the people and precinct they represent. One voice is no more important than another. Communication, compromise, and compassion are the backbone of progress.

At your service,

Don Denbow, Mayor