

For nearly a decade, leadership in Hellertown has chosen self-preservation over accountability and silence over responsibility. There is a fundamental misunderstanding of what public services means.

We are witnessing a pattern of behavior that has corroded the integrity of this governing body; the leadership has become less about service and more about control. Power has been increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few individuals, undermining the very system of checks and balances designed to protect residents from exactly this kind of overreach. Leadership has tried to handpick individuals to run for Council — in an effort to ensure seats are filled by those who won't question the smoke and mirrors. Fortunately, others have stepped up.

Our Borough's structure is meant to foster transparency, uphold balance, and preserve public trust. It was never meant to enable a handful of individuals to bend the rules for personal gain. What we are seeing today is an abuse of authority masquerading as leadership. And it is harming Hellertown.

Elected leadership has tried to silence council members during public meetings — interrupting, dismissing, or outright refusing to engage in dialogue when it challenges their narrative. They have refused to answer legitimate questions posed by both colleagues and residents — not because the questions lacked merit, but because the answers were inconvenient.

We've had a Borough employee negotiate their own contract — under the guise of representing a group — while others engaged in theft and other serious transgressions, all with little to no accountability. In the last six months, we've had Vice Presidents of Council appointed — not based on qualifications or merit, but on who would go along quietly, not ask questions, and not interfere with the manipulation.

Elected leadership has lied to residents, staff, and community organizations — not to inform, but to protect their own interests and manipulate perception. There has been backstabbing of council members and community partners — people who volunteer their time and resources to make Hellertown a better place, only to be lied to.

We've had elected leadership corner employees, warning them not to trust certain council members. We've had executive session information — meant to remain confidential — leaked for political gain. This behavior is not only unprofessional — it is unethical.

Even more disturbing, we've seen elected leadership interfere with criminal investigations — stepping outside the boundaries of their role to exert pressure where it doesn't belong. That crosses every line of decency and legality.

A judge recently noted that the former Chief cited pressure from the Borough Council President and Mayor as reasons for some of his theft. Let that sink in — pressure from named individuals

as a justification for wrongdoing, a statement the judge felt was significant enough to be said at the sentencing. This wasn't just an administrative failure — it was a moral one. And when members of Council tried to get answers related to the theft of nearly \$100,000, we were met with anger, hostility, theatrics, and a myriad of lies.

Worse still, there are grassroots defamation campaigns — supported by some of the elected leadership you see here tonight. They have called residents and encouraged them to attend meetings specifically to speak poorly of council members — not because we failed in our duties, but because we dared to challenge the status quo.

We now operate in a climate where harassment and intimidation are not only tolerated — they are seemingly encouraged. This is not an isolated incident. It is a pattern; the sustained pattern of behavior has contributed to personnel leaving the municipality sooner than planned. And it is deeply damaging to morale, to governance, and to our community. Hellertown is not being led, it is being manipulated.

We've seen council members trade votes for personal benefit, not for the common good. Decisions that should reflect what is best for the residents of Hellertown are instead made based on ego and favoritism.

What we've seen publicly may only be a fraction of what's really going on. The theft, the lies, the manipulation — these are symptoms of something deeper. I no longer believe these actions are isolated or accidental. I believe things are being hidden. And I believe the public has not been told the full truth. Some know far more than they are willing to admit — and their silence is not ignorance, it is strategy. The truth isn't just being overlooked; it's being actively buried to protect those in power.

I encourage every resident, everyone: follow the patterns. Question the silence. And don't settle for the version of events that's been crafted to protect people. The residents of Hellertown deserve to be protected from manipulation and lies, and they have a right to the full truth.

At this point, I have exhausted every avenue to bring these concerns forward from within — and I have come to a painful but necessary conclusion.

Effective immediately, I resign from my position on Hellertown Borough Council and Planning Commission.

This decision does not come from weakness — it comes from clarity. I will not lend my name, my time, or my integrity to a body that continues to operate in secrecy, hostility, and self-interest.

I leave with my head held high because I spoke the truth, stood up for what's right, and never betrayed the trust of the people who put me here.

To the residents of Hellertown: thank you. Serving you has been an honor I will always carry with pride. You deserve leadership that listens, leads with integrity, and puts people before their own power and control. We all deserve better from those who serve.

Tom, this may be the win you've been pushing for, but it is not a win for Hellertown.