**POLITICAL SPEECH**

**FOR**

**KING RANDALL**

Ladies and gentlemen, friends and family, neighbors, and distinguished guests, I am King Randall and I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today. For those of you that know me, you know of my spirit, my intentions, and my commitment to the quality of life for all of the residents of Albany, Georgia. For those of you that I have not yet had the privilege to meet, you **WILL** know about me very **VERY** soon. It is my intention to be the next Mayor of Albany, Georgia. Our **HOME**, this city, has potential, it has heart, it has a determined soul, it has a community that I **KNOW** is strong, and in order to fulfill that intention, I am asking for your attention, support, and open mindedness to change. I may seem young but I care a **WHOLE** lot for this community and for all of you.

A wise man once said, “There are three solutions to every problem: accept it, change it or leave it.” This is what you need to know about me: I have no intention of accepting the problems that have plagued this city without giving my all to fight for a better way and I have no tolerance for the crime infestation and lack of civic responsibility we’ve experienced in the past. I have absolutely **NO** plan to leave, so **GUESS WHAT**??? My plan is to **CHANGE** what’s not working, pay attention to the issues that have caused our problems, and work with our wise and willing partners, neighbors, and community leaders to make positive improvements in the quality of life in our **HOME**. Look at what’s going on all around us. We **CANNOT** let negative forces rule our streets and hijack our quality of life. It is time for **ALL OF** **US** to **STAND UP** and **STAND OUT** to protect our families, friends, and neighbors. The time has come for us to advocate for what we have and to take pride in protecting and strengthening our city. Most of all, the time has come for us to **REALLY, ONCE AND FOR ALL, STAND UP AND BE COUNTED**.

I just **KNOW** that some of you are staring at me right now, maybe giving me some **serious** side eye, scratching your head, ... I think you might even be a little confused.... as you say to yourself, “**WHOA**....!!! Wait a minute.... he looks **REALLY** young.... what **IS** this kid **THINKING**???? I will **TELL** you what I’m thinking. I’m sick of the crime that has overtaken this city. I’m sick of the lack of action that paralyzes us. I’m concerned about the apathy... the lack of interest on the part of our community members when it comes time to having a say in the way our local, state, and Federal governments are run. Look what’s going on around us!!! It’s **UP TO US TO LIFT OURSELVES OUT OF THESE PROBLEMS**! It’s time to **FIND OUR VOICE AND USE IT**... ... And while there are forces of nature that strike that are beyond our control, there **ARE** actions we **CAN** and **MUST** take to fight for our city’s dignity, self respect, and place on Georgia’s map. I may be young, but I am no longer willing for Albany to fall through the cracks of bureaucracy. I am no longer willing to see waste and ruin overcome our neighborhoods. Someone has to step up and that someone is **ME**. And with your support and **MY** determination, we can make change happen **TOGETHER**.

Just so that you know I am sincere, determined, serious and prepared to dedicate my time to heal this city, let me tell you a little about myself. (**Give a brief biography... who you are, where you went to school, what inspired you to offer yourself to civic duty, your service, etc. at the end you can briefly describe your platform**). \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. taught us, “If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then **crawl**, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving.” Ladies and gentlemen, friends, and most of all to the young adults in this room.... we have to **KEEP MOVING**. We must advance as a community. We must take a long and hard look at what has **NOT** worked in the past and we **MUST MOVE FORWARD TO POSITIVE CHANGE**.

One of the ways we can and should move forward towards positive change is by **VOTING**. We each get **ONE VOTE**. We are beginning to see what happens when we don’t use our rights... they get stepped on and threatened. In 2016, Albany had a population of almost 74,000 people. I came across an article posted in the Albany Herald around the time of the special election held last year. Do you **KNOW** what the title was? I’ll tell you. “Albany City Commission Ward II Early Voters Barely Outnumber Candidates.” There were **FIVE** candidates and **SIX** votes cast according to that article. The turnout for the general election wasn’t **THAT** much better, and we have the **CRITICAL** midterm elections coming up this November. (**Do you want to take a little audience participation? If so...**). By a show of hands, how many of you are eighteen years old and about to vote in the midterm elections? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Okay. How many of you that are already eighteen or will turn eighteen by November 6th are registered to vote? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Thank you. How many of you know young people that are planning to register to vote or, more importantly, **NOT** planning to vote? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Thanks. Now, how many adults are not registered or not planning to vote? **WHY**? I want to know why. If I am going to represent you and advocate for all of our residents, I want to know what you’re thinking, what kind of considerations you have. I want to know what’s stopping you because, honestly, I **WANT** you to vote.... I need **ALL OF YOU** to understand how important you are to this community. **YOU ARE THIS COMMUNITY.** I want to know what stops you and what limits you so we can find out how your government can support you... this gives you just a small example of how seriously I take my work and my intention to be your Mayor. Don’t ever forget.... **I AM. YOU**.

We have so many challenges to confront in Albany.... we have to address the rampant crime and deal with it once and for all. (**Give one or two sentences on how you plan to work with the police chief to address and handle crime**). I intend to continue working closely with Police Chief Persley and with all of you to find and implement measures to put a stop to the disproportionate violence we have seen. We need to work together, to get to the root, to shine a light, and **STOP** the violence once and for all. It’s important to address issues of infrastructure and what can be done to effectively support the systems and services that are the foundation of this city. We need to address the businesses and commerce and work with the Chamber of Commerce to promote our resources so that we all succeed, we must insure our schools are a safe haven for education, our social and health services are able to accommodate each one of us, and most of all, we need to find a **COMMON GROUND**.... one in which we know and support our friends and neighbors to make Albany, Georgia a place we’re proud of... a city in which we are **ALL** involved, we all have a voice, and we all listen to one another.

If any of you know my grandmother, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, you might have heard the story she tells about me when I was little. She said when I was a little boy... maybe about four or five years old, I came home from school and I said to her that I am going to finish the work that Dr. King started. Pretty ambitious for a four year old, **RIGHT**??? (**Wait for the laugh**). It’s now almost fifteen years later and my intention has only grown stronger, and like Dr. King, I, too, have a dream.... and it’s of a healthy, prosperous, active and united Albany, Georgia, but I need all of you with me.

Dr King also said, “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” Don’t **EVER** forget that your voice and your vote matter. We have a lot of work to do, but it will be worth it. I plan on strengthening this city to the best of my ability and I welcome your partnership and your confidence. The time for change has arrived and our city will no longer be left behind. Please join me!!!

**SO**..... Let’s get started!!! Thank you all!!