**POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SPEECH**

**FOR**

**LARK WILL**

Hello everyone and welcome!!! I want to thank you for being here and for taking some time to meet, get to know, and hopefully endorse and support Tracye Polson in her run for the Jacksonville City Council. Tracye is an aware, empathetic, responsive person…. one who has and **will**, I am confident, continue to make a far reaching, positive contribution to Jacksonville …. and I am not just saying that because she’s standing right next to me!! (**Wait for the laugh**). Tracye has lived in, worked in, and contributed to the well being of the residents of this city for the past \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years. As a wife and mom, professional and concerned citizen, Tracye has made her mark in this community, and she’s done it with respect, consideration, and common sense. We are gathered together today to get the word out about this remarkable person. While I wouldn’t **really** say that Tracye is “Jacksonville’s best kept secret…” I mean she **DOES** get around… (**if there is a popular local meeting spot you can say**) …. Just check out \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at around\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pm…we’ve heard of sightings… (**and wait for the laugh**), we are here today to see what we can do as **partners**…. to contribute to the **viability** and **visibility** that is needed in order to insure that this notable, respected candidate finds her rightful place on the Jacksonville City Council on Election Day.

Tracye Polson’s personal and professional experience speak to her character. Her compassion transcends barriers and borders. As a wife and mother of five, a respected psychotherapist, and breast cancer survivor, Tracye has been on **YOUR** side of the fence. She has lived through the day to day challenges and opportunities that we all face. Tracye is not a politician with an agenda. Tracye **IS**, rather, a concerned and committed member of this community…. she is a person who intends to make a difference for all. The times in which we live seem so divisive… and whether that is because we have more access to reaction and commentary or because simultaneously, everyone seems to have found a voice, Tracye Polson is a breath of fresh air. She advocates for **integrity** and the **greater good** of all people in this community.

As most of you know, the City Council seat that is being filled was held by former Jacksonville Mayor Tommy Hazouri, who sadly passed away before he was able to complete his term in office. Tommy was known for the positive impact he had on this city. His dedication to Jacksonville’s civic health, and the bi-partisan support he earned… and deserved, is well known and respected. Before his passing, Tommy endorsed Tracye and was clear that he wanted her to fill his City Council seat.

I met Tracey four years ago, which was just before her announcement to run for office the first time.  She immediately impressed me with both her intelligence and her empathy.  She and I have worked together to get women elected to all political offices. Clearly, that’s one of the characteristics that I admire about Dr. Polson…  and yet, what’s more important is that while Tracye promotes women, it’s crucial to note that she is equally respectful of men. … and while her main goal is to insure that all residents of Jacksonville are served with insight and integrity, she simply wants and encourages women to realize their full potential.

The respect that Tracye has earned in Jacksonville is impressive. In her previous run, which, by the way, she lost by a very small number of votes, she received the endorsement of both left and right leaning organizations, including the Fraternal Order of Police – I’m sure we can agree that this is quite notable for a Democrat!  Tracey’s ethics are clear with each decision and move she makes. She does her homework, makes informed choices, and advocates for her principles while allowing voters to “see the light” and choose what would be best for them and their neighbors.

As we stand in this room, it becomes clear that Tracye Polson is a dedicated advocate for Jacksonville, but that’s the point. We, in this room, now know about this powerful candidate….. but as I remind myself on a regular basis, “I don’t know what I don’t know,” and that’s why we are here today. Tracye can no longer operate on the fringe of Jacksonville’s decision making machine. I have known for a while that it crucial to have someone like Tracye Polson advocate for all of us in an arena in which she can make a difference. We’ve gotten together, today, to get familiar with this candidate. Now it’s time to get the momentum going…. To give what you can… of time… money… and teamwork. It’s time to volunteer, donate whatever you can, campaign, and spread the word so that when Election Day comes, we can proudly celebrate our newest City Council member, Tracye Polson!! Thank you all!!! **LET’S GO!!**