**CAMPAIGN SPEECH**

**FOR**

**LARK WILL**

Hello everyone. I am thrilled to see so many of you here today. This is a gathering of all types of people with diversified backgrounds, ages, and interests, meeting across party lines, and that, in and of itself, is heartening and encouraging. When it comes down to it, we share a very basic yet important common ground…. We are all human, living in a shared community, expressing our concern for the current condition and cautiously optimistic for a better future on every level… personally, professionally…. for our families and friends…. neighbors and colleagues…. and that begins with making the choices that, what we believe, in the deepest recesses of our individual and collective conscience, are the most beneficial to the qualities of life and freedoms we share and value so strongly. I am certain that I cannot overstate this: it is so vitally important to vote. To express yourself and feel that you are represented in the shaping of our government and protecting its future and **OUR FUTURE** is undeniable. Not voting is not an option in my book, and so I am proud to be here, to do what I can, to spread a word and offer the opportunity for some clarity and optimism in this very critical election cycle.

I want to say something some of us may be thinking….. there is no such thing as the “perfect” candidate. No one will possess every quality that will satisfy every doubt and concern we may have, and because of this, it’s so important to research, discover, question, and ultimately support what we believe, in the **overall**, works best for us. All of this is what makes this gathering so important. Today we have the opportunity to meet and listen to, a **new wave**… in France, there’s an expression, “***nouvelle vague***.” I’m happy to say there’s nothing **“vague”** about the woman I am here to introduce!!! One thing that is essential to all of us is the need for fresh air, to have new life with a fresh point of view breathe hope and bring new possibilities to our government representation. To have someone with, literally, a notable global life experience and conscience is, what I believe, needed and wanted in this current climate. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell is the Democratic candidate for US Senate and who I believe, fits the bill for honesty, integrity, compassion, and the wherewithal to get things done while keeping the best interests of her constituency… and the country… uppermost in her consideration.

Debbie has “been around the block….” and welllll…. If you take a more in depth look into her history and record, she has gone further than that!!! The candidate that we are about to meet has demonstrated many distinctions and her life’s path and experience shows she is “one of us.” Ms. Mucarsel-Powell, as a woman, an immigrant, as one who has suffered the loss of a parent to unspeakable violence, and as a parent herself, an activist, and so much more, tells us, just from those brief descriptives, that she has and can continue to relate to the crises and conditions she will face as a valued member of the United States Senate. She bears the distinction of being the first Ecuadorian-American and the first South American immigrant to serve as a member of the US Congress and served in that capacity for two years. Before her term, she was active in many aspects to round out her experience and outreach, including working at various non-profits including the Hope Center, Zoo Miami Foundation, and the Coral Restoration Foundation. She was the associate vice president for advancement and later an associate dean at the FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. She has been married to her husband, Robert for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years and together they have three children. Debbie knows what it means to be a member of a community in which juggling **ALL** of the balls of modern life becomes an Olympic sport!!

I could go on and on about Debbie’s experience, achievements and enthusiasm for her outlook and commitment to serve the people of South Florida…. and **ALL** Americans, but the truth is, I want to find out even **MORE** about her…. **FROM HER**!!!

I hope all of you are as energized and as hopeful as I am for this candidate and the future. It is really long overdue that we actively support and promote those who are eager to advocate for **US**…. To be ready and willing to stand up for the rights and freedoms so vital to the core of this country…. To have a voice representing each one of us with optimism, alacrity, and the willingness to maintain the tenets and principles that have been the backbone of this great country for so many years.

As I stated earlier, it’s great to see so many of you here and now the question is…. **WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT**??? Seeing Debbie’s campaign straight through to the Senate takes opportunities like this…. meeting, greeting, confronting issues, and finding a comfort level for you so that you have a personal experience of who will be representing you in government is crucial. It is also vital for each one of us to so what **WE** can to make this a reality. Voting is, of course, non-negotiable. Being here is a choice… a great and welcome one…. and there are other ways that are so important to get this done… donating… time… money… conversation… whatever you can spare… is essential in making sure our voices are heard and groundswell is produced.

Thank you all… again, and now, ladies and gentlemen, your next United States Senator, Debbie Mucarsel-Powell!!!