

January 27, 2009

Dear Community:

I would like to introduce myself and explain why I am the best candidate for the position of Interim 7<sup>th</sup> District Council Representative.

As a lifelong resident of the 7<sup>th</sup> district, I understand the need to bridge the gaps within our community. My earliest memory is of me at age two sitting on my Grandmother's porch in the 2000 block of Fairmount Avenue playing with family members. I fondly remember learning to cross the busy Fairmount Avenue intersections to get across the street to the corner store to buy my candy, talk with neighbors or go to church. I remember the strong sense of unity and pride we had, even as young children, for our neighbors and our neighborhood. This sense of pride and unity was not just on our block or street; it was our entire community. We were not residents of Fairmount, Union Hill, Mosby Court or Fairfield Court. We were residents of Church Hill. As I grew older and family members moved into Fulton, it was not Fulton Hill or Fulton Bottom; it was just Fulton.

I say this to say we are one community. While we are a diverse community, we all want the same things.

- Clean, safe, crime-free neighborhoods.
- Good schools that focus on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and that we can be proud of.
- Neighborhood improvements that acknowledge our past, but also provide sustainable and affordable living for our future.

I will bring to this position my love of this community. I could have purchased my home anywhere, but I chose to remain in the 7<sup>th</sup>. I have been a homeowner in Fulton for 18 years. I bring my commitment to public service and giving back as a long-time volunteer with the Richmond City Schools system in various capacities. I will also bring my willingness to work as a team and will support the needs of the entire district as well as the city.

My work ethic, sense of responsibility, and accountability were forged right here in the 7<sup>th</sup> district and I ask for your support in moving our community forward. If you feel I'm the best candidate for this position, please contact members of the Richmond City Council to let them know you support my appointment as your council representative. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Carletta Wilson