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CHASE HARRISON ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR TAMPA CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 (CITYWIDE) SEAT

TAMPA – Chase Harrison, retired U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant and Tampa Police Officer, today announced his candidacy for the Tampa City Council citywide District 1 seat currently occupied by divisive and combative incumbent Councilman Joe Citro.

Harrison, who also is a commercial pilot and small businessman, will focus on protecting freedoms and safety by supporting Police and Firefighters, opposing restrictive government mandates, cutting taxes and spending revenues wisely, providing solutions to affordable housing and food deserts in inner city neighborhoods and fostering *real* unity to get things done on the Tampa City Council.

Harrison, who served 20 years in the military and more than a decade in law enforcement with the Tampa Police Department, said, “I’ve spent most of my adult life in public service by preserving your freedoms during my career in Air Force Intelligence and by protecting you, your family and your property as a Tampa police officer patrolling our streets to keep you safe.”

“Over the past four years, the Tampa City Council has been divided into two distinctive factions, which has led to stalemated government that has become largely ineffective. Furthermore, this divisiveness has led to contentious and sometimes personal exchanges between the factions as well as individual members that has become both disrespectful and, quite frankly, sophomoric.”

“Tampa deserves strong, decisive and effective leadership instead of petty squabbling and personality conflicts that are beneath even juvenile cliques and conflicts in a school yard. Citro is at the center of one of these exchanges at a recent Council meeting and it was inappropriate.”

“This is YOUR City Council and the District 1 seat I am seeking is YOUR seat. I want to serve YOU and not my ego by seeking this office,” he added.

“I will foster *real* unity of purpose and progress where freedom from government burdens, excessive taxes and regulations will allow businesses to thrive, grow and provide jobs to lift those in need out of poverty and provide opportunities for all to live the American Dream here in Tampa.”

As a retired law enforcement officer, Harrison will prioritize spending whatever is necessary to support both police and firefighters by providing the resources necessary in equipment, training, hiring and facilities, such as new fire stations where needed, to ensure that both departments can keep the City safe through quick response times.

(MORE)

Paid for by Chase Harrison, for Tampa City Council, District 1

Harrison also understands the necessity of encouraging and promoting mental health assistance for 1st responders who have high stress occupations.

On taxes and spending, Harrison proposes a top-down assessment of all City spending to reduce waste and duplication *inside of* each agency and department *before* raising any taxes on hard-working families and businesses. "Government always starts new programs, then continues them long past their usefulness by creating an entitlement mentality with every initiative. Annual assessments will reduce this waste, and if there is money left over each year, let's use that surplus toward infrastructure or give it back to taxpayers."

"After all, it's YOUR money the Council is spending each year," Harrison added.

Affordable housing has become a critical need due to exploding property values, not only in the City, but also the entire County as well. "If property taxes and the price of City services are raised each year on apartment complexes, that tax is added to the rent for tenants, which has been a huge factor in rent increase over a period of years. Tax relief will curb the rent increases and cutting wasteful spending will provide more flexibility to allow affordable housing to be built in inner-city neighborhoods," Harrison said.

"Another issue that has been ignored by the Council is food deserts. Grocery stores are largely unavailable in many inner-city neighborhoods, thus single Moms have to travel many miles on buses to buy groceries to feed their children. Exacerbating the problem is the fact that they can only purchase what they can carry on the bus because they can't afford cars, so they have to make multiple trips each month to put food on the table," Harrison said. "Providing tax incentives for store and bodegas to locate in inner-city neighborhoods and creating public-private partnerships between the City, the grocery and food industries and not-for-profit organizations will provide real assistance to families in need."

"I am running because the future of our City is at stake and the decisions the City Council are making now will have a huge impact on what our City looks like 20 years from now. We must tax for what is necessary, quit wasting money on bloated administrative bureaucracy, and spend what we do raise wisely in the areas of greatest need to help our City to anticipate and prepare to handle the inevitable growth that will continue to come."

"Tampa deserves our very best to prepare for the future for us and our children."

"It's THAT important," Harrison concluded.