We have the rare opportunity in this election for mayor with both candidates having lengthy voting records that we can and should examine. That approach will allow us to get past campaign promises and see the real heart and soul of the candidate. This election won’t be about fancy slogans or poll signs. The way we’ll select our city’s mayor won’t be based on press conferences or what high school a candidate attended, but rather how each candidate responded when given the opportunity to address the needs of Fayetteville’s diverse citizens. Who has answered that call? You have seen the real results that my leadership has brought to this city. You know the level of honesty and accountability that I bring to the office of mayor. And you have seen how people’s lives have been changed for the better over the past six years.

When Ms. Shelley and hundreds of others anguished in dilapidated Campbell Terrace, who answered their call with the $125 million HOPE VI Project that not only gave them new homes but restored their rightful pride and dignity? When single-parent Joseph stood out in the rain with his two children waiting on the side of the street for a bus that never came, who answered his call with new buses, extended routes and benches and shelters? Who has made tangible progress in addressing the homelessness issue in our city investing the city-owned Hope Center on Person Street, in Operation Inasmuch, with the VA to help address homeless veterans and to a new collaboration with councilman at the time - voted no.

When single-parent Joseph stood out in the rain with his two children waiting on the side of the street for a bus that never came, who answered his call with new buses, extended routes and benches and shelters? Which candidate for mayor invested in the transit system and never voted to raise transit fares? When contaminated water was found on Rim Road, look at our council’s effort to immediately step in and clean it up. Compare that response to the one Ms. Jean McDonald from Eufaula Street received in 1993 when she asked to the city to help move her from the filthy, rodent-infested county landfill beside her home, and my opponent – city

In a 5-4 vote, the City Council in 1990 approved that plaque. My opponent, elected by Mayor Tony Chavonne, appointed to address the issues of our community. We cannot go back in this city. And we can no longer accept leader campaign promises but rather demand real results. When you vote on November 8th, ask yourself this question. What would Ms. Shelley in her new HOPE VI home do? Or - single-parent Joseph now able to count on a dependable bus to his new job? Or Jean McDonald from Eufaula Street?

Who has made tangible progress in addressing the homelessness issue in our city investing the city-owned Hope Center on Person Street, in Operation Inasmuch, with the VA to help address homeless veterans and to a new collaboration with the faith community to provide shelter for homeless families and children?

I recently had the opportunity to re-read the plaque under the Market House downtown. “In memory and honor of those indomitable people who were stripped of their dignity when sold as slaves at this place. That courage in that time is a proud heritage of all times. They endured the past so the future could be won for freedom and justice. Their suffering and shame afforded the opportunity for generations to be responsible citizens, free to live, work, and worship in the pursuit of the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.”

In a 5-4 vote, the City Council in 1990 approved that plaque. My opponent, elected by Mayor Tony Chavonne, appointed to address the issues of our community. We cannot go back in this city. And we can no longer accept leader campaign promises but rather demand real results. When you vote on November 8th, ask yourself this question. What would Ms. Shelley in her new HOPE VI home do? Or single-parent Joseph now able to count on a dependable bus to his new job? Or Jean McDonald from Eufaula Street?

Who do you want to be there as mayor to answer the next call?

I ask for your continued prayers and support and for your vote on November 8th. May God bless each of you, and God continue to bless our great city.

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