

“For I know the plans I have for you.” Jeremiah 29:11. When I announced my plans to run for Mayor of Baltimore, I was content with whatever the outcome was going to be. I was prepared to build my transition team and get started with the important work of rebuilding our city. I was equally prepared to pick up the pieces and move on if I came up short on Election Day.

I am extraordinarily proud of the campaign we ran. Despite the limited resources, we were able to run an effective campaign through the midst of a global pandemic and historic quarantine/stay-at-home order. I knew that my chances to win the Mayor’s seat became significantly tougher, but I stayed encouraged and thought about every single donation my supporters made, every single encouraging message that was sent, and every single yard sign or social media post that bared my name.

I am humbled and grateful to all of my supporters. Thank you! Thank you to my family and my friends, especially my baby boy, Kai. He was with me from day one and he was with me in the background of so many Zooms, on his best behavior. We ran an honest, ethical, and efficient campaign that was focused on leadership, action, and ideas. We are proud that we didn’t have to resort to personal attacks and “politics as usual” to earn your respect.

I want to extend a special thank you to all of the families who lost their loved ones who were part of my campaign announcement. I am forever grateful to Ms. Toya Sykes-Coates, Ms. Sharonda Rhodes, and Ms. Krenee Simmons for baring their souls in my commercial, entitled, *The Burden*. To all of you- I will never forget your loved ones and I will continue to use my platform to bring attention to your cases and your advocacy.

Baltimore, better days lie ahead. In order for us to truly BeMore, we must engage more, do more, and expect more. We will be okay, but it will take all of us. We must work to support the incoming Mayor for the betterment of our community, our Baltimore. Over the last nine days, we have seen mainly peaceful protests in Baltimore over the senseless murder of George Floyd. These protests have been led by a cross section of people, including youth. Baltimore, five years later, is showing the rest of the country what resiliency looks like. There is so much more work to be done, but it should be encouraging that we are making progress, together. And we must ensure that there is swift accountability for deliberate injustices and abuses of power.

I look forward to sharing ideas with whomever is eventually elected as Mayor of Baltimore in November.

For now, I am going to de-stress and allow my mind to rest after a long and grueling process. I’m going fishing and I’m going to eat some crabs.

Everyone, be well, and take care of one another. Thank you again for the amazing support!

~T.J. Smith