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Gloria Thurman-Candidate for Ward 8 City Council

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Gloria E. Thurman

Candidate for Ward 8 City Council

925 Wahler Place. S.E.

Washington, D. C. 20032 - (202) 574-5161

Black and White — No Gray Areas

January 1, 1995

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, and members of the press.

My name is Gloria Thurman. I am a candidate for the Ward 8 City Council seat left vacant by Mayor Marion Barry.

In Washington's Ward 8 as in other metropolitan communities nationwide, there is a morale crises facing us of epidemic portion. The breakdown of the family structure, the lack of unity and participation in our communities, violent crimes, children killing children, teenage suicide and pregnancies on the rise, are all harsh realities of this fact. All over the community, as I speak with the youth, young adults and senior citizens of Ward 8, there is an urgency in their voices, that says "STOP THE MADNESS". It is this urgency, it is this pain that I am responding to.

The government can pour millions after millions of dollars into programs, projects and so-called "good" solutions, but key in any program designed to eliminate blight and poverty must include the participation of the community. Just as important to eliminating blight and poverty is creating communities that are vibrant and economically sound. To produce communities that are successful, like a developer, you must apply a holistic approach, that addresses the moral, economic, health, education and social needs of our communities. Of which the centerfold of that design is economic growth, growth that includes getting economically sound business to come into the communities; providing transportation and other infrastructure that is convenient, and safe; housing that is affordable, and other amenities such as convenient shopping facilities.

My Blueprint for Ward 8 calls for the application of this holistic approach. It is a five year comprehensive plan that is tailored to families and the community. The plan incorporates a disciplinary approach that will save our children and unify our communities by providing a safe environment, affordable housing, and sound economic growth.

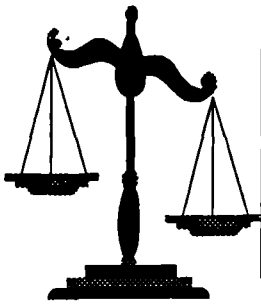
Many of us need to break free from the past along with the old way of thinking that clearly has not produced change. We have to begin in some cases and continue in others, performing in areas that involve the common good. We can bring about change, once we recognize that we have a personal stake in the issues and problems that face us. "Community involvement brings about change..politics do not" said one citizen. Charting a course is not enough, you must be on the right course if it is to produce the results that you desire. I believe that I have charted the right course for Ward 8. Thomas Jefferson said, "I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that His justice cannot sleep forever", I tremble at the thought of what is to come if we neglect so great an opportunity as this.

I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gloria E. Thurman". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'G' and 'T'.

Gloria E. Thurman
Ward 8 City Council Candidate



Black and White — No Gray Areas

PRESS RELEASE

**Gloria E. Thurman announces her candidacy for
Ward 8 City Council.**

DATE: Wednesday, January 18, 1995, 2:00 P.M.
WHERE: 925 Wahler Place S.E.
Washington, DC 20032

Biography

Gloria E. Thurman, Covington-Frederick, Former ANC Commissioner, SMD 8E04
Highland Addition Resident Council President, Here We Are People, President
Creative Minded Youth, Youth Organizer, Author & Publisher

Gloria E. Thurman, an Afro-American, was born and raised in Washington, D.C. She has been married for 22 years and is the mother of 6.

Gloria E. Thurman, along with Teretha A. Hill founded "*Here We Are People*", in June 1979. As President, she oversees the operation of the company. *Here We Are People* is a firm dedicated to giving exposure to the unknown talent in the metropolitan area, as well as helping the elderly and youth become aware of their self-worth.

Prior to establishing her own company and magazine publication, she wrote numerous poems that were published in other books and has published three books of her own poetry. She is a member of the National Writer's Club.

She received her ministerial license in July 1980. During 1968 - 1990 she preached in many churches, prisons, halfway houses and group homes, and was a part of many programs where she shared her writings as "*The Word of God Through Poetry*". Her other contributions include sponsoring exhibits and poetry readings. Giving clothing and food to those in need and assisting the elderly to obtain food, financial assistance, medical treatment social services, transportation or housing.

In 1988 she started the first official *New Edition Fan Club* in Southeast Washington D.C. It was used as a tool to motivate the young girls to do well in school and strive to reach their potential.

She attended Woodson Adult Education classes for Business Mathmatics and Accounting. She studied Street Law at Georgetown University, and completed the Red Cross Home Health Nursing course in 1984.

She was certified as a Nursing Assistant by Greater Southeast Hospital in 1984.

Dear Ward Eight Resident:

I desire to be your Ward 8 City Councilmember for three important reasons: My dismay over the present condition of Ward 8. My belief in the ability of Ward 8 residents to unify and empower themselves; and my willingness to go the extra distance to ensure that Ward 8 residents are not only recognized for their accomplishments, but respected for their victories. To accomplish these things, I need your help and support.

I am especially concerned with rebuilding the family structure and bridging the generation gap between our senior citizens and our youth. A reviving and strengthening of the family must take place if we are to progress in our communities. I realize that a program is no good if it is not wanted by the people. The residents of Ward 8 will always be included in the planning process. I am not looking to the Mayor for a guarantee that we will rise to greatness, but for opportunities so that we can rise to our fullest potential.

We must stop criticizing each other. Please do not allow the media or anyone to turn us against one another. We are only as strong as the weakest link in the chain. No one person alone can do the work of reformation, or restoration in Ward 8. We are all responsible for our piece of the pie and held accountable if it is distasteful.

I believe that many of the acts against the residents of Ward 8 has offended both society and God; but we can become a torchlight for Washington D.C. We must not allow personalities to get in the way of progress. Unity of the whole is what is needed in order to truly be second to none. Our enemies laugh at us because they doubt it will ever happen. I laugh at our enemies because with God and righteousness on our side it will be accomplished.

I want to have the opportunity to speak for you on the City Council. I will work very hard to have for the residents of Ward 8:

- Good schools**
- Well staffed and equipped recreation centers**
- Safe neighborhoods**
- Monitored training programs and employment opportunities**
- Decent and affordable housing**
- More local autonomy**
- As well as a sense of pride and empowerment in our communities.**

Please help me, help our communities.

WARD EIGHT NEEDS GLORIA THURMAN!

I want to help Ward Eight from the inside out. Ward Eight needs Gloria Thurman! Ward 8 needs someone who has been in the trenches, and is not afraid, or will not be bought off when fighting on your behalf. **I am that person.**

I will not sell you out! I have a genuine concern for our children, which has and will continue to be demonstrated as I fight to see that they receive a quality education, get the health care and recreation they need.

I will always be accessible to all the people of Ward 8.

I know how to get things done and I know how to pray to get answers from God. We are living in a very stressful time and we know that in order to cope, we must believe in a higher power. What has happened to our faith in God? Have we given up on our dreams and goals just because someone said they were unattainable?

Many of the problems the residents of Ward 8 are facing, do not have clear-cut or simple solutions. In many cases it took years to get into the situation that we are in and it could take at least half that long to find our way out.

We know that when the budget axe traditionally falls, it falls on us the hardest. We know that when social, rehabilitation, recreation and education programs are cut from the budget, it is we, the people who are already living below the national norm that hurt the most. As a result, the minds of our children become stagnated. That in turn stagnates our communities, and in the long run it spells genocide.

Ward Eight residents, it is time to fight back! You must have an understanding of the time we are living in. Your words and actions can bring you out of a bad situation or tie the knot tighter around your neck. You have the power to act positively instead of reacting negatively. When purpose is not clearly understood, abuse on all levels is inevitable. Children in low-income environments are forced to face tremendous social and economic complications that put them at great risk for developing drug problems or criminal behavior. **What I believe the crisis in our communities must do, is serve notice to the bureaucrats and the politicians that recess is over!** No more playing with our lives. No more using us as stepping stones. No more getting rich off the poor.

I believe that even God has become offended by the politics and rhetoric that takes place in Ward 8. Our date with bureaucracy has been broken and our marriage to the master politician annulled.

Ward 8, we can no longer seek to kill the messenger when we do not like the message. The familiar is not necessarily the best. We have many of our problems because we are loyal to people, programs and systems that are dysfunctional, ineffective or dead. We need diversity and not division. We can not destroy our

enemies but we can make their works void by coming together for the common good of all. We can see that some of our enemies are strategically placed in (high places) the government. Some of our enemies have a history of what they call "giving crumbs to the dogs", and all we have been receiving is a dogs portion.

We must face our insecurities in order to become what we were born to be. Many of us have tried and failed when reaching for success, but even more have tried and died. From this we have learned that it is not by will alone that we overcome, but by loving one another, understanding one another, accepting the truth about one another, and from that truth allow healing and correction to make us whole.

We are in a morale deficit, and spiritually many of us are in the red. Many of us are trapped because of a lack of education. But I find that the difference between being poor and poverty stricken is your frame of mind. What does your attitude say about your situation?

It is time for change. We do not have to ask why justice is so unjust when it comes to Ward 8. We know that the system is far from perfect. In the past we have had to choose the lesser of the evils and in doing so we have not been able to pick our fights. I am saying "we can have much more then crumbs . We do not have to pick from the bottom of the barrel for representation anymore, and we can pick our own fights and win".

Ward 8 residents I am a warrior. I know how to fight spiritually and I am capable of bringing together opposing segments, in order to get favorable results for you.

I may not succeed all of the time in getting what Ward 8 needs. But I promise you I will succeed enough of the time, to make a positive and noticable difference.

Let Me Represent YOU!

VOTE FOR GLORIA THURMAN ON MAY 2,1995