

MELONY FLETCHER HOWARD, ESQ.

Friday, June 22, 2018

Manatee County SOE, and
Manatee County Registered Voters
Manatee County, Florida

Re: 2018 Race for Manatee County Board of Commissioners – Candidacy Withdrawal

Dear Manatee County Voters:

As of noon today, I am withdrawing from the 2018 Race for Manatee County Board of Commissioners; District 6 – At Large.

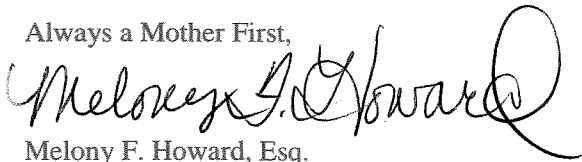
My Democratic leaders here were aware that my first choice in running for office was Manatee County Clerk of Courts. As you may know, that race is for 2020. But who knows? Vanessa Baugh's seat is also open in 2020. Maybe I will have changed my mind by then (just like Vanessa changed her mind) and run for my home District 5 seat. I will take the tools I have obtained in this experience (my first run for public office) and apply them expertly in my next run for office.

I will also be focusing on getting my son released from Manatee County Jail and getting him the proper care for his 'war wounds.' Ronald Keith Howard, II, is a 100% disabled Iraq War Veteran. Keith, 36 years old, has Traumatic Brain Injury, PTSD, seizures and is suffering from congestive heart failure from lack of care after two (2) years of incarceration without the proper medical care he needs from the Bay Pines VA Center in St. Petersburg, FL. My son needs, and deserves, all my attention at this moment in time.

In other words, I have lots of decisions to make. My faith and my family are always the lenses through which I make all my decisions. Therefore, my first decision is to withdrawal from the race, putting my son first.

It has been my honor to serve my community in this way, but now, I must take care of my child. Thank you for your interest in my candidacy and I will be back.

Always a Mother First,



Melony F. Howard, Esq.

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