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ORLANDO CITY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5 CANDIDATE CYNTHIA HARRIS CALLS MAYOR'S AND COMMISSIONERS 21% RAISE SHOCKING AND DISTURBING

Orlando, Florida – September 23, 2013 – Today, Cynthia Harris, Candidate for Orlando City Commissioner District 5, released a statement regarding the City Council's vote to give itself a 21% raise.

City Council members recently voted to give themselves a 21% increase in salary while only approving a 3% increase for other City Employees. Although, the City Council voted not to give themselves an increase in both 2008 and 2009, nothing indicates any significant rationale for an increase now, Harris stated. The decision to serve the public in a Public Service role, by design, should be more about sacrifice than self. **The question is how will a 21% increase benefit the taxpayers?** If it doesn't then it is probably the belief of public opinion that 3% should be across the board. **The City will give employees a 3% raise, but with higher medical insurance cost it does not equate to the cost of living said Harris.**

Again, how will this 21% raise help the taxpayers and does this action reflect sound stewardship of an already stretched budget, especially, when the increase follows a budget workshop revealing a budget for shortfall next year by borrowing heavily on reserves, said Harris. The military acts with honor, which is what we should always demand of our elected officials. We should hold all elected officials to the standard of first representing those who elected them: the citizens of Orlando said Harris. **Would an increase in the Mayor and Commissioners' salaries result in a decrease in services to city constituents such as waste management and first responder's?** Will City employees and constituents suffer as a result of this large increase of 21% while other areas are experiencing budget decreases? These questions are legitimate concern of citizens stated Harris.

For City employees, giving yourself a 21% increase is a slap in the face when you are working hard to help keep a City functioning. When I look at this issue, the first thing I ask is whether the constituents think that the council has done a good job for them **especially when it comes to Commissioner Daisy Lynum's representation of District 5, said Harris.** Raises for City Council should be based on pay for performance. It is the standard that Orange County teachers are held to, why not our Mayor and City council? For the record, is it not a conflict of interest for Council members to vote on their own pay increase, since it would directly impact their financial livelihood? **This vote should weigh heavy on the taxpayers who voted them in office.** I would support an equally balanced increase. **Harris will attend today's Council meeting to give itself a 21% raise at 2:00 pm.**

About Elect Cynthia Harris for District 5 The motto of the campaign "A Better Vision for District 5" is epitomized by her commitment to serve with transparency, strength, and vision in service to the best interest of the citizens and to protect the future of this community. Harris brings to public office, not only her compassion; but, her relevant career, credentials, and credibility in Social Work and Criminal Justice. For more about *Cynthia Harris' Campaign* please visit: www.cynthiarharris.com, **Facebook: electcynthiaharris2014**. Remember to vote on **Election Day: April 8, 2014.**