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## **DEVINE ANNOUNCES CAMPAIGN FOR CITY COUNCIL**

Tameika Isaac Devine, who has championed safety and security, wellness and dignity, and job opportunities for all Columbians, wants to continue the significant progress that has been achieved in these areas. She filed today for the At-Large seat for Columbia City Council. The election is Nov. 5.

“This is a critical time in Columbia’s development with difficult social and economic issues,” said Ms. Devine. “I feel strongly about a vision that includes all Columbians to address important issues that impact our lives.”

Ms. Devine, the mother of two girls and wife of Richland One School Board Chairman Jamie Devine, has been a leader on stemming gang violence in Columbia; preventing domestic violence; promoting health and wellness; creating youth development activities, and building Columbia’s economy.

“We are growing again, and it’s because as a city we have created an atmosphere that encourages growth – not just downtown but in all areas of our city,” said Ms. Devine.

Ms. Devine was the first African-American woman and one of the youngest members when she was first elected At-Large to Columbia City Council in 2002. Since then she has steadfastly represented all of Columbia, one of the reasons she wanted to run for the At-Large seat.

For her, however, the most important area of her work has been youth development and anti-gang activity. “We must give our young people opportunities and a safe environment in which to grow – one that will allow all of us to prosper.”

Ms. Devine led the efforts for the Police Athletic League, for an anti-gang study and initiative. She helped establish the city’s Criminal Domestic Violence Task Force and led the establishment of “Together We Can,” an education initiative to enhance student achievement. Then she initiated the “Ultimate Wellness Challenge” to help stem the impact of obesity, and she chairs the city’s “Let’s Move Columbia” initiative.

Ms. Devine has not shied away from controversial issues, from homelessness to historic preservation, trying to find a balance that builds a better Columbia for all. “These are not simple issues, but decisions with consequences,” said Ms. Devine, “and my positions have been to do what is right, not what is expedient.”