



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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David Seamon for Mayor
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CPS school board member David Seamon announces campaign for mayor of Columbia

Columbia, Mo. — Today, Columbia Public Schools Board of Education member David Seamon announced his candidacy for Mayor of Columbia. The municipal election is scheduled for April 5, 2022.

Seamon was elected to the Board of Education in June 2020 and is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. He moved to Columbia with his family in 2003, graduating from Rock Bridge High School and Columbia College. If elected, he would be Columbia's first Black mayor.

Seamon said that, as mayor, he will work to build a vibrant future for Columbia and ensure the city continues its leadership as a welcoming and innovative community. He is committed to a vision of municipal governance that focuses on equity.

"Our city is a hub for education, healthcare, and business. We enjoy a lot of prosperity, but everyone deserves a share in it. The challenges we're facing right now — keeping Columbia affordable, reimagining community safety, distributing opportunity across the city — are chances to do better than we have in the past. Let's make sure City Hall is open to people who don't feel like the city works for them. And let's take action on the things we already agree our community needs, like establishing a permanent shelter for the unhoused and implementing the recommendations found in the 2014 Mayor's Task Force on Violence," Seamon said.

"Having worked with David on important issues impacting our community ... it is difficult to imagine a person with the experience and leadership that would serve as a better fit for the needs of our residents," said Crystal Newcomb, the executive director of Columbia's Cradle to Career Alliance. "His knowledge of community processes is something we need during this critical time and I would look forward to seeing what he can make happen."

His experience as an elected official during the COVID-19 pandemic has shaped his approach to leadership and problem-solving, Seamon added. He serves as the Board of Education's policy committee chair and defended Columbia Public Schools' governing independence against outside, partisan attacks on local control. "I joined the school board in the middle of a once-in-a-generation crisis that upended all aspects of our education system. We had no roadmap to manage an uncertain, dangerous situation while continuing to serve our 19,000 students, staff and families. We couldn't just throw up our hands and pass the challenges off to someone else, even when the pressure

became unbearable. The flexibility this role has required, coupled to a clear-eyed commitment to our overall mission, is something I learned first as a Marine and it's something I'll bring with me to the Mayor's office," he said.

Seamon works nights as a manager at Scholastic, Inc., and he and his wife, Nicole, are raising three children. He is also back in school, working on an executive Master's in Public Administration at the University of Pennsylvania. He said he knows even city government can seem far away when someone has immediate personal and family concerns that demand their attention, like just keeping the lights on, staying healthy, or shuttling between jobs.

"I understand the need to advocate for the people who aren't in the room, who can't make it to the room. I'm keenly aware that, had a few things gone differently in my life, I wouldn't be someone with a seat at the table. What the City of Columbia chooses to do and where it puts its resources affects every Columbian, from our youngest kids to retirees. As our community grows, we need leaders who will speak with strong, uncompromising voices in support of our most vulnerable neighbors."

Local disability rights activist Dr. Jacque Sample agreed. She said, "David truly and completely listens to what people are saying. He doesn't just hear the words — he hears the passion, the emotion, and the need in every voice. His goal is to take that information and apply it to the efficient and effective running of our city. David's quiet and steady leadership with an emphasis on equity is exactly what Columbia needs right now."

Seamon is currently collecting petition signatures for the race.

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