



## Announcement of Candidacy

My name is Omar Sadek, and I am running for Lake Mary City Commission Seat 1. As a life-long Lake Mary resident and proud graduate of Seminole County Public Schools, I know that I have been shaped into the person that I am today because of our blossoming community. I now hope to return that love and support by being the dedicated and forward-thinking public servant that Lake Mary deserves.

### BACKGROUND

As a political science student and Bonner Leader at Rollins College, where our mission is to engage in “responsible leadership and global citizenship,” I have dedicated myself to learning all I can about how big ideas can be applied to communities like ours in helpful, practical ways. Additionally, by working alongside Winter Park’s Sustainability Department, developing my background in financial oversight and budgetary allocation with the Business Advisory Council at Crooms AOIT, and working at the local, state, and national level with Business Professionals of America, my learning opportunities have certainly stretched beyond the classroom and have helped me cultivate the understanding necessary to not only *run* a growing city like Lake Mary, but to *build* a solid foundation for it as it looks towards the future.

### THE CROSSROADS

I say a “growing city” because Lake Mary finds itself at a crossroads. “Development” and “growth” are commonplace ideas found on any candidate’s campaign platform, and rightfully so. In fact, I challenge you to find a city in the United States where such platforms are not the norm. But what works for other cities does not necessarily work for us, and what has worked in the past will not necessarily work for the future. While the city has grown tremendously in the last twenty years, we need to make sure that the next twenty see development guided by sustainability and innovation. If Lake Mary is to succeed as a competitive and attractive community, we need to be leading the way as a model municipality.

### POLICY PROPOSALS

That is why I am committed to bringing sensible and innovative policies to the table, and working tirelessly to make them a reality for the benefit of all Lake Mary residents. My campaign focuses on four main areas of common sense city development:

- **Sustainability**
  - Community Engagement Initiatives to educate our residents on the importance of waste reduction and reducing our collective carbon footprint.
  - Green Business Incentives to reward businesses that are making the intentional choice to help preserve and protect the environment around them.
  - Waste reduction efforts and working with our waste management contractors to preserve the beauty and health of our land and waterways.
  - Upgrading our energy efficiency standards first within city-owned buildings to ensure that the city is doing its part to go green.

- All of this being possible of course, through the designation of a Sustainability Advisory Board and a Sustainability Planner to actively work with the community and businesses to implement these kinds of green initiatives.
- **Public Safety**
  - Starting by streamlining the flow traffic on major roadways like LMB and Rinehart Rd, so we can make sure our residents as well as the many thousands of visitors who commute to Lake Mary for work every day are always safe.
  - Designation of a Community-Police Relations Advisory Board to help build a productive and open dialogue between residents and law enforcement. Making sure to include people of color at the table, as our nation continues to grapple with the complexities surrounding systemic racism and racial injustice.
  - In addition, advocating for the city to pledge to a comprehensive review of use-of-force and engagement procedures within LMPD in accordance with guidelines provided by the My Brother's Keeper Alliance. All of this done to make sure we protect our growing and diverse community.
  - Data transparency related to critical COVID-19 data, working with the county health department to make sure that data metrics, such as the number of active coronavirus cases in our city, are readily available to the public.

#### **COVID-19 Relief**

- City-funded rental/mortgage assistance programs that goes beyond CARES Act funding to support those hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Small business relief; A Forgivable Loans Program to aid small Lake Mary businesses who have demonstrated extraordinary financial need related to the disruption of COVID-19.
- And as we continue to live through the pandemic, I'm also calling for an Increased budget for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be supplied to businesses, students and residents, at large. This will be critical as our students are currently transitioning into the 2020-2021 school year.
- **Youth Civic Engagement**
  - Youth voter registration and engagement initiatives in partnership with Lake Mary area schools that aim to guide the new generation of voters to be engaged and invested in their civic responsibilities.
  - Formation of a Youth Advisory Council for the purpose of giving of our youth an ample voice in city hall.

#### **BRINGING IT HOME**

Believe me, I know that right now is a concerning time for you and so many others in our community. Maybe because you're a small business owner on the verge of losing it all, or because you don't know if an at-risk family member will weather COVID-19 safely.

I know because I'm deeply concerned too. Concerned about what this time means for my friends, for my family, and most importantly for the future of my community. But at times like this, we have to push past that fear, that uncertainty, and take the reins on shaping our future. I

know that Lake Mary has afforded all of us so many opportunities, and as your next commissioner, I will work hard to make sure that those opportunities only grow.

While I realize that some of you may not look to a student as the leader this community needs, I assure you, being a student is exactly what *every* community needs. As a student I am dedicated to learning, listening, and leading by example, putting into practice the lessons I have learned and incorporating a diverse array of perspectives and ideas. Every experience I have, every connection I make, and every person I talk to is a learning opportunity for me. As your city commissioner, above all else I will be committed to keeping my finger on the pulse of our community. I will go out of my way to stay engaged and informed with your needs, your concerns, and your insights. That's because taking effective action as a city commissioner starts with knowing what's happening in *your* lives.

## CONCLUSION

This year is the first time many of my peers will be voting and expressing their voice in our government. In a few more years, we will be setting up new businesses and guiding our city's economic growth. A few more years after that, we will be starting families and having children of our own who will be going to schools right here and growing into the city's next generation of leaders. *That* is the future I am thinking of. Not just the end of 2020 or making it through to the next election cycle, but the future of what kind of city we will be passing on to our children's generation and beyond. That is why I am running for the future *as* the future.

And as I envision that future, I also know that our city's continued growth and prosperity starts with electing a commissioner that believes in the importance of sustainable infrastructure, emphasizes increased transparency and involvement in our government, and recognizes the importance of moving swiftly and unapologetically to protect public health.

I know I'm ready. Ready to lead Lake Mary towards that future but most importantly, ready to *learn* along the way.

**Thank you, and I am looking forward to earning your vote  
this November 3rd.**