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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

904WARD Opposes SCOTUS Ruling on Affirmative Action

JACKSONVILLE, FL – 904WARD is committed to creating a community of inclusion and addressing historical wrongs. Today we express our profound disappointment regarding the recent decision by the United States Supreme Court to overturn Affirmative Action. Colleges and universities should reflect the diverse communities that make up our nation.

At 904WARD, we believe that Affirmative Action has played a pivotal role in addressing some of the historical disadvantages underrepresented communities face, fostering a more equitable society, and promoting genuine opportunities for all individuals regardless of race, gender, or socioeconomic background. The decision to overturn such a vital tool undermines our progress as a country toward creating a fair and just society.

Affirmative action was one of many intentional acts needed to undo policies that excluded brilliantly talented people of color from pursuing higher education deemed appropriate for Whites only. These policies, some outwardly racist and some not, still had the impact of locking people of color out of higher education, which impacts the ability to get certain jobs, make higher levels of income, and live in better neighborhoods.

It is important to note that affirmative action does not "give" any person anything solely because of their race. Students vying for admission have worked just as hard as their peers and deserve to be where they are.

By dismantling this crucial policy, we risk regressing to a time when opportunities were disproportionately distributed and progress toward achieving true equality was hindered. If we want to maintain the gains and make continued progress, we have to recognize the disparate impact of policies, regardless of intention, and demand that we have an equitable society that addresses that. We must require this of our lawmakers and politicians, and we must require it of our nation.

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**About 904WARD**

904WARD creates racial healing and equity through deep conversations and learning, trusting relationships, and collective action. Our vision is an end to racism in Jacksonville, so all people thrive.