

# GRAHAM STURM



## FOR 5TH DISTRICT CITY COUNCIL

**Graham Sturm Endorsing Fellow Candidate Stephanie Lynch for 5<sup>th</sup> District City Council**

**For Immediate Release:**

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**Richmond**— The following is a statement from Graham Sturm, candidate for 5th District City Council, who made the decision to discontinue his campaign in favor of fellow candidate Stephanie Lynch:

“Over the past few weeks and months, I have cherished the experience of being a candidate for the 5th District City Council seat. As a Richmond Public Schools teacher, I am glad to have pushed the conversation towards education. That was what my campaign set out to do. That has been what my campaign has achieved. I also hoped to inspire the hundreds of students that I have taught to find their way into public service and fight for their communities. In the time since entering this race, I have gotten to know another candidate that I think can carry on that mission. I am asking anyone who has supported me and anyone who supports public education to cast your vote on November 5th for Stephanie Lynch.

Two things that struck me about Stephanie have led me to this endorsement. First, her personal experience as a social worker and her work with children resonates with me on a personal level because of my own background. I have seen first-hand the challenges our children face inside of their classrooms and schools. Stephanie has seen those challenges inside of their homes and in their personal lives. The commitment that both of us have made to public service and using our own precious time on the planet to better the lives of our neighbors has turned us from opponents to friends.

Second, in such a large and diverse field, Stephanie has the unique ability to communicate with me the same way she does with everyone that knows her. Her ability to listen and truly

understand the challenges we have is a skill that our next city council member must have. If she, knowing I was an opponent in this election, is willing to listen to me, then it is clear she listens to everyone. Leaders must be able to listen. Stephanie hears you. She hears me. At the outset I promised responsive leadership, and I know that you will get that with Stephanie Lynch.

Being a candidate myself, I have gotten more exposure to my fellow candidates than most any constituent or voter will ever get. All of the candidates have brought so much to the table. Having met all of them, it is my firm belief that we are all good people, and are in this for the right reason. Stephanie has proven that she is the best person for the job. I have seen first-hand the challenges that Richmond faces, and I believe that Stephanie knows how to solve those challenges.

Students need our help. Teachers deserve our support. Together, we can make real progress on those issues this fall. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, my name will appear on the ballot. When I cast my vote, it will be for Stephanie. Join me in doing the same.”