**Name and Title-** Councilwoman Sheila Patterson Harris- Council member District 2

**How Long have you served** – five and a half years

**What is the jurisdiction/are you serve**- I serve District 2 in East Lubbock, Texas?

**When did you first become interested in public services**- I served in juvenile probations for twenty Years so I have always served the public in some capacity? I have always been connected to politics in some shape or another. My father served on the city council or 25 years. I had no intention of becoming a city council member, but the God laid it on my heart, and I decided to take a leap of faith and go for it.

**What is your work experience or what was your previous profession?** - I previously worker for juvenile probation as probation officer for twenty years. After that I worked as a public works director for parks and recreations.

**Do you hold a degree? If so, what area of study**- I do have a degree from in journalism from the university of north Texas.

**What was the campaign experience like for you**? - I t was definitely interesting. It was a lot of work and a lot of blood sweat and tears. I had a campaign committee that was completely comprised of women, and we took to the streets of Lubbock knocking on doors and talking to the people that lived in the community that I wanted to help. There were days that it was not sure that I was doing the right thing. There were may doors slammed in our faces. We heard a lot of no’s and people said I was crazy and there was no way that I could make a difference, but o persevered on and here I ma on my second term.

**Is this the first political office that you have sought**. - yes. I never had any dreams or plans to serve in any capacity after retiring from the juvenile court system, but somehow it just worker out this way.

**Have there ever been times when there were request that you could not fill?** - Absolutely, while of course you want to do everything that is asked of you, sometimes it really just is not possible. For instance, there are several areas that still had dirt roads and the people living in those areas were really adamant about wanting the areas paved. While I would have loved to pave every road in the district that wanted it, there was simply not enough funds to do so.

**What is one of your favorable times in office/**- although every time has been memorable, I would have to say that the cleaning and revitalization projects that have been done in east Lubbock. We have cleaned up graffiti and planted trees and painted. The sense of pride that I see exhibited by the residents of east Lubbock makes me so happy and that is one of the most memorable times I have experienced during my time in office.

**Who is the most famous or more noticeable politician that you have met**? - Of course, that would be former president Barack Obama. I had the pleasure of meeting him in Dallas, while he was o the camping trail for current president Biden. It was a very memorable experience, and I had the opportunity to briefly chat with him. Also, my father who is definitely my hero. My father TJ Patterson served for twenty plus years on the Lubbock City Council.

**What ae there of the most prioritized issues that your constituents have met you with**? - I would have to say the crime. As you know, the crime rate in east Lubbock is extremely high and of course this presents obstacles for the residents that live here. We are hoping to get more neighborhood associations going and try to eliminate the huge need for police presence. Also, economic opportunities or the lack there of. We would live to be able to bring more businesses to the east side of town so our residents do not have to venture too far outside of their neighborhoods for items that should be at their fingertips. Lastly, creating a sense of togetherness and unity is something that we need to get back to in district 2.

**Is there a policy that you had a direct influence in having passed/adopted?** - Absolutely, I lobbied for the passing of the TJ Patterson childcare initiative/ This police will make childcare affordable and accessible to the people in district 2. It is something that I am most proud of.

**Do you have higher political aspirations than the office that you currently hold**.? Right now, I do not know because I don’t know what god has in store for me.

**How does your family feel about your jaunt into public office?** My son was initially bothered by it since there are always people seeking to wreak havoc on a politician’s life, but the know that this is God’s divine purpose for my life, so they have come to accept it.

**Are campaigns expensive?** - Oh my, they absolutely are. And if you spend one quarter in a manner that someone feels that you shouldn’t, then you are opening a whole other can of worms.

**How was your campaign funded?** Strictly from my pocket and donations. There were days that I did not know how we were going to go on financially during the campaign, but we made by the skin of our teeth.

**How may constituents do you serve?** There are roughly about eight thousand people in district 2