



**Like many Baltimoreans, I love our city, but I have also been disheartened with the continued level of violence and opportunities here. I made a decision to run for mayor after careful consideration. I believed that we needed an outside of politics perspective to introduce fresh ideas to help move the city forward. While I did not prevail in my bid during the primary, which has not deterred me from wanting what is best for Baltimore. Daily, I receive messages from parents who have lost their children or young people who simply want an opportunity at a good paying job.**

**I had the chance to meet Bob Wallace a while ago and I was immediately impressed and moved by his story. I knew then that if I wasn't successful, he was someone who I could support. Shortly after my concession, Bob and I met again and I've been assisting him ever since. When I heard the story of Bob seeing young children and families in Tanzania sleeping on the dirt under a tree because they had no home and how Bob immediately gathered a group of people to raise money and build an orphanage, I knew instantly he was a "doer". I also knew that he wasn't the person looking for accolades for doing. He saw a problem and felt compelled to do something about it. I was further moved by the fact that over 8,000 residents signed a petition to put Bob Wallace on the ballot as an independent candidate for mayor of Baltimore.**

**Bob's story of success, which is a classic "rags to riches" story, involves paying it forward. During my campaign, I often referenced Power52, Bob's sons company where he is a board member, and how they train people how to work. Not only do they train people how to work, they are training people in an industry of the future, solar.**

**I know that we need a compassionate, knowledgeable, "ready on day one", job creator to help immediately address the longstanding problems that exist in our city. I enthusiastically endorse Bob Wallace for Mayor of Baltimore. We need a pragmatic, non-partisan, leader who has a track record of success for us to realize our full potential. I am encouraged and excited by his message and plan to Reset|Reform|Reimagine Baltimore.**

**T.J. Smith**

