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The Honorable Leonardo Williams  
Mayor of Durham, North Carolina  
Democratic National Convention  
Thursday, August 22, 2024  
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

I'm Mayor Leonardo Williams from Durham, North Carolina. Several years ago, my wife, Zweli, and I started cooking for our community. We drove to schools and doctors' offices to give out our free samples. Eventually, our friends asked: "Where's the restaurant, y'all?"

But it takes capital to chase a dream like that—and the Trump administration wasn't doing very much to help folks like us. I guess we can't all get multi-million-dollar loans from our father. So, we emptied our savings and, in 2018, we launched Zweli's Kitchen: America's first Zimbabwean restaurant.

The Biden-Harris administration helped make that dream come true—they invested in entrepreneurs like us. Thanks to a small business grant, now we have three locations and pay 30 employees living wages. And we're not alone. Under Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, more than half a million business applications have been filed in North Carolina.

Kamala Harris is fighting to create an opportunity economy and break down barriers entrepreneurs face. As president, she will support the risk-takers and problem-solvers who want to do their part and claim their piece of the American Dream.

People like Maya from Nevada—who has served her famous dumplings for the past three years and opened new locations thanks to historic support for small business. Robert from Minnesota—whose solar business heated up once Joe Biden and Kamala Harris passed the Inflation Reduction Act. And Paul from Arizona—whose commercial cleaning company landed huge contracts thanks to the Biden-Harris manufacturing boom.

Kamala Harris knows: Entrepreneurs like these are the backbones of our communities.

When they succeed, we all succeed.

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