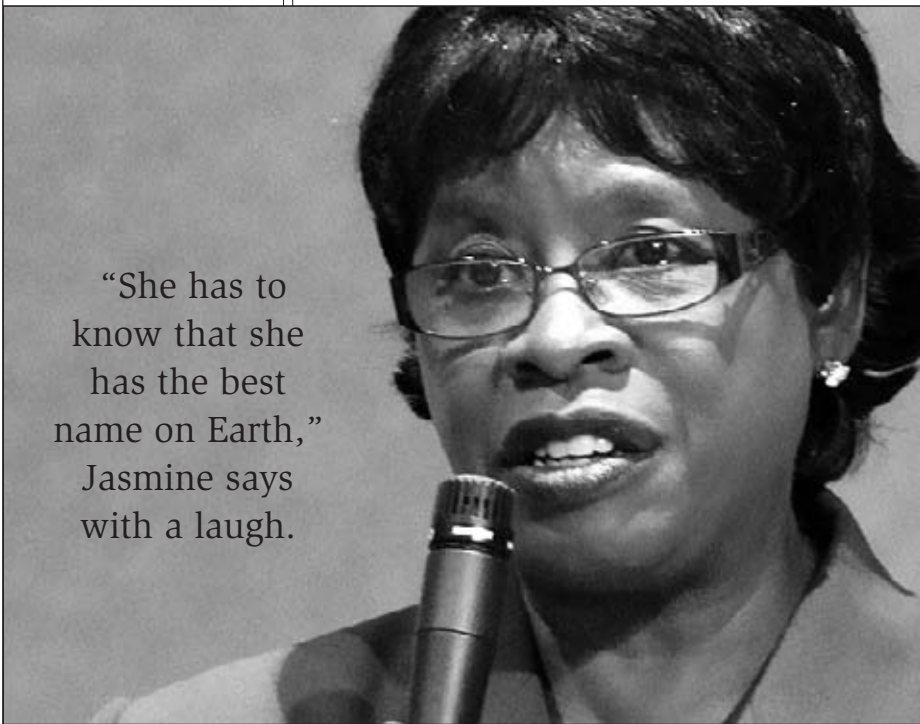


“She has to know that she has the best name on Earth,” Jasmine says with a laugh.



FILE PHOTO/WALTER COKER

Glorious Noise

COUNCILMEMBER GLORIOUS JOHNSON GETS A ROCK-'N'-ROLL TRIBUTE

She already had the distinction of being the only councilmember with an adjective for a first name, the only African-American elected to a countywide seat, and the only black lawmaker we know who would volunteer to be photographed in a T-shirt reading “Equal Rights for Southern Whites” (see Cover Story, April 22, 2008, available at folioweekly.com).

But Group 5 At-Large Jacksonville City Councilmember Glorious Johnson is now also the only local official with a rock band named in her honor. Chad Jasmine, founding member of the newly formed psychedelic three-piece Glorious Johnson, says of the handle, “It’s just the greatest rock-’n’-roll name ever. It’s kind of like Lynyrd Skynyrd, but instead of a white gym teacher, we named [the band] after a black councilwoman.” Guess E. Denise Lee just doesn’t have the same ring to it.

Jasmine — who, aside from his musical endeavors, is known for “collecting” almost 500 McCain-Palin signs from public rights-of-way during last year’s election — says the choice was part political commentary, part rock-’n’-roll aes-

thetics. He wasn’t particularly well-versed in Johnson’s politics when he named this newest project (he wasn’t sure to which party the recent Democratic convert belonged), but found the bawdy double entendre irresistible. “She has to know that she has the best name on Earth,” Jasmine says with a laugh.

Jasmine has yet to meet the woman who inspired the name, but he suspects Johnson will get a kick out of it. “She seems like she’s got a wonderful sense of humor, so I hope she likes it,” Jasmine says. “I have no idea what her response to this will be, but it’s just the name getting out there a little more. It can only benefit both sides.”

Johnson, a classically trained pianist, told Folio Weekly, “I love it.”

If Johnson decides to run for mayor — which she’s indicated is a possibility — Jasmine hopes the band will be invited to play at a rally.

(Full disclosure: Folio Weekly Managing Editor, John Citrone, was tapped by Jasmine to play drums in Glorious Johnson. The band performs at Sun Dog in Neptune Beach on Nov. 13 and 14.) □