

October 18, 2021



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**UNITED WAY: 8409
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To Whom It May Concern;

I'm in full support of the River School and all of the many resources it brings to the District of Columbia. My name is La'Mont Geddis and I serve as the Director of JC Nalle Community School With The National Center for Children and Families (NCCF). JC Nalle Community School is a public school within the District of Columbia Public School System; DCPS.

JC Nalle Community School is located in Ward 7 of the District of Columbia, Serving more than 384 students in Pre-Kindergarten through the fifth grade. This Community is challenged by severe poverty, high unemployment and low educational attainment. About half (48%) of all Ward 8 children and 40% of all Ward 7 children live below the federal poverty threshold (DC Action for Children, Issue Brief: A Tale of Three Cities: What the Census Says about the District and How We must Respond (2011)). Twenty-one percent (21%) of adults in this community do have a high school diploma and 54% are functionally illiterate.

JC Nalle is a school-wide Title I school. The Majority of students are African-American(93%) and come from low-income families. This past year 35% of students scored at just a basic level in math; 43% in reading (levels: advanced, proficient, basic, below basic) While these results actually reflect a significant gain from the previous year, there are still a high number of students who are not academically proficient or advanced in these areas, particularly in the area of reading. Because of statistics like this JC Nalle is fortunate for the River School. We are fortunate to have a partner with a demographic like the one we serve. The River School Adopted JC Nalle and offered summer programming to JC Nalle Students which included transportation. These type of experiences are priceless. It exposes Nalle students to resources that they would not ordinarily receive in the public schools with very few people to advocate them.

If you have any further questions about my unyielding support for the River School, I can be contacted via email at lgeddis@nccf-cares.org .

Sincerely,

La'Mont Geddis, M.Ed
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Director of The Kennedy Street Freedom School with NCCF
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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.20472
EXHIBIT NO.102

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