

Black Male Working Academy, Inc.

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Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today

Dear Congressman Barr,

As a veteran of the FCPS education system, executive director of the Black Males Working (BMW) Academy, and Co-Chair of Mayor Linda Gorton's Commission for Racial Justice & Equality, I am very pleased to offer my support for Community Action Council's proposal for the Prep Academy at William Wells Brown. This is a time during which closing the educational achievement gap and fighting for equity in education are more important than ever, and the Council's Prep Academies serve as vehicles to achieve this in our community.

William Wells Brown Elementary school serves mainly minority students from families with low income, and has been designated a Comprehensive Support and Improvement school due to its history of low performance. One of the main recommendations of the Mayor's Racial Justice and Equality Report is to "Build an integrated system of early childhood education that addresses the needs of children, adults and families." Right now, there is a gap in this system in the William Wells Brown district, one which the Head Start services offered by the proposed Prep Academy would help to fill. The Prep Academy will increase access to resources that will help these children flourish, learn, and be ready to succeed when they enter Kindergarten.

Another part of the Mayor's Racial Justice & Equity states that "Where a child lives should not limit or determine their trajectory. Children can live, learn, and grow from high-quality early education centers in their own neighborhoods." I urge you to consider the Council's 56 years of experience operating high-quality, comprehensive child and family development services in low-income areas in Kentucky through Head Start, and the benefits this Prep Academy would provide for the underserved children and families of the William Wells Brown neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Roszalyn Akins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Roszalyn Akins
Co-Chair, Mayor's Commission on Racial Justice & Equity