

July 24, 2023

Re: Naming the Lassiter Middle School Youth Service Center

Dear Members of the Jefferson County Board of Education,

This letter is written to wholeheartedly endorse the renaming of the Lassiter Middle School Youth Center as the Rochelle E. Brown Youth Service Center.

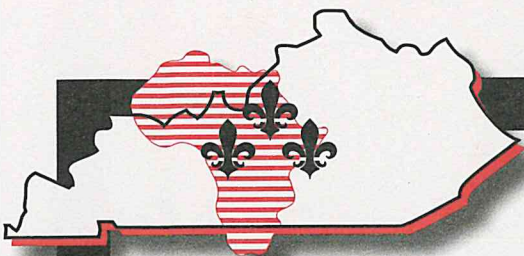
Rochelle passed away unexpectedly and way too soon on Mother's Day, May 14, 2023. I have known Rochelle for years and believe that naming the Youth Service Center in her name honors both Rochelle and Jefferson County Public Schools based on the values and ideals she represented as a JCPS teacher.

Rochelle taught at Lassiter Middle School for her entire 26-year career with JCPS before her passing. During her tenure her calling for the teaching profession was exemplified by the love, compassion, and support for her students before her untimely death.

Rochelle was a mainstay for the Lassiter Youth Center. She contributed her time and resources continually to the Center in assisting middle school students with various needs. She continually desired to help those students who were dealing with difficult circumstances.

I sincerely request that the Jefferson County Board of Education honor Rochelle's legacy, and spotlight the contributions of a dedicated, committed, and inspiring teacher by naming the Center as the Rochelle E. Brown Youth Service Center. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Charlie W. Johnson



Greater Louisville Alliance of Black School Educators

P.O. Box 37348
Louisville, Kentucky 40233-7348

Suzanne Manual Wright
Executive Administrator
Jefferson County Public Schools
VanHoose Education Center
3332 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40218

Dear Ms. Wright,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Adrian Layne, and I am writing to you on behalf of the Greater Louisville Alliance of Black School Educators (GLABSE) to present a heartfelt request that carries profound significance for us.

As you are well aware, JCPS employs extraordinary teachers across the district who work tirelessly to ensure our students' academic, social-emotional, and basic needs are met. Among them was my friend, Mrs. Rochelle Brown, who selflessly served at Lassiter Middle School her entire 26 year career, and was also a member of GLABSE.

Rochelle was not merely a teacher but an inspiring mentor, a source of encouragement, and a beacon of wisdom for generations of students who passed through her social studies classes at Lassiter. In addition to teaching the standards of social studies to her students, she exceeded her call of duty and supported students personally and through the Lassiter Youth Services Center with supplies, personal needs, and a consistent helping hand.

In memory of the beautiful soul of Mrs. Rochelle Brown and the tremendous impact she had on the Lassiter Middle School community, we respectfully request that the Youth Services Center be named in her honor. Doing so would serve as a lasting tribute to her dedication, compassion, and relentless pursuit of excellence in education. We believe that dedicating the Youth Services Center to Mrs. Brown will not only preserve her memory, but also inspire current and future students to strive for greatness and embrace the values of selflessness Mrs. Brown exemplified.

We understand that such a decision involves thoughtful consideration. We kindly ask for your support in this matter and eagerly await your favorable response.

Best,

Adrian L. Layne
President, GLABSE

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Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church

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Rev. Terry D. Jones, Pastor

July 24, 2023

Suzanne Manual Wright
Executive Administrator-
Project Management
Jefferson County Public Schools
VanHoose Education Center
3332 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY. 40218

Dear Ms. Wright,

I am writing you in regards to the renaming of the Lassiter MS Youth Service Center. I am the pastor of Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church and would like to extend my endorsement of Rochelle E. Brown as a candidate in renaming the youth center.

Rochelle gave her entire 26 year career to teaching for JCPS at Lassiter Middle School. Rochelle loved children, and she loved helping them succeed. Her heart and soul was all about the students and she worked tirelessly to help them in anyway she could. Plus as a teacher, she was committed to the Lassiter Middle School community.

In addition to teaching, through the Lassiter Middle School Youth Service Center she gave to and assisted middle school students with supplies, personal needs and a regular helping hand.

After her untimely passing, and in her honor we are seeking to rename the center; *The Rochelle E. Brown Youth Service Center.*

Grow in Grace,

Rev. Terry D. Jones, Pastor

MVMBC

ldh

Mrs Wright,

I wanted to send you this endorsement to rename the Lassiter Middle School Youth Center to the Rochelle E. Brown Youth Center. This would be so fitting, given that my dear friend devoted her heart and soul to her Lassiter kids. She adored teaching and providing guidance to those young folks. She had so much passion for what she was doing.

I have known Rochelle and Ken for the past 20+ years. Whenever we would gather for dinner or other social events, she would always have stories to share with us, with such a big smile on her face. That was clear evidence of the love she had for her school family.

Rochelle had so much passion for her school and the kids. I remember thinking, if every had that much passion and love put into their professions, what a difference we could make in this world! I would definitely endorse making this name change in honor of Rochelle Brown.

Respectfully,
Daryl Mosby

Dear Ms. Wright,

My name is Angela Ingram-Jones and I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the renaming of the Lassiter Middle School Youth Service Center to the Rochelle E. Brown Youth Service Center, in memory of my dear friend, Rochelle Brown.

Having met Rochelle 25 years ago while residing in Louisville, alongside my husband who is a Louisville native and a JCPS graduate, I can attest to the profound impact she had on the lives of countless students. Throughout the two decades of knowing Rochelle, she proved to be a truly exceptional teacher, always going above and beyond to support her students.

One of the first conversations I had with Rochelle highlighted her dedication to helping students with personal care needs, such as ensuring they had access to clean clothes, school supplies, and food. Her compassion and commitment to the well-being of her students was incredibly heartwarming to witness.

For an impressive 26 years, Rochelle dedicated her career to JCPS and the Lassiter Middle School Youth Service Center, leaving an indelible mark on the education and lives of those she touched. Her selfless contributions to the community and her unwavering dedication to the students make her more than deserving of this honor.

Renaming the Lassiter Middle School Youth Service Center after Rochelle Brown would be a fitting tribute to her legacy and a reminder of her profound impact on the lives of so many. I urge you to consider this proposal with heartfelt support and reverence for Rochelle's memory.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Angela Ingram-Jones

Dear School Board Committee,

Words cannot express the saddest I have felt with the passing of Rochelle. The thought that she can live on with the naming of the Rochelle Brown Youth Services Center is absolutely amazing. Teaching is a hard profession, but Rochelle did it with ease and with a smile for over 25 years. When I met Rochelle over 15 years ago she gave me lots of solid advice that I have carried with me for the 15 years I have been teaching. I had the privilege of working alongside Rochelle for many years in the FEA/ MTRP program. The passion she had for kids is unmatched. Rochelle loved kids and she loved Lassiter so it is only fitting to honor her for her dedicated service in this way. She gave her whole career to Lassiter. Over our many years of friendship we would share stories of our students and there is no doubt the love she had for them and the staff at Lassiter. The world is a better place because Rochelle was in it. Naming the YSC after Rochelle will keep her name living on in that building. It will allow her to continue to help children be successful. She wanted her students to succeed in life and in school and this will allow such things to happen. Rochelle was an advocate for children experiencing hard times. She never made judgment only created opportunities for her kids.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Beckham

Jennifer Beckham Ed.S

502836-0128

Dear Ms. Wright,

My name is Margaret (Peggy) Brown, and I am a 6th grade Language Arts teacher at Crosby Middle School.

My purpose for writing this is to request that you consider renaming the Lassiter Youth Service Center in honor of my former colleague and friend, Rochelle E. Brown. As you probably know, Rochelle passed away a week before the end of the 22/23 school year.

I first met Rochelle when I joined the Lassiter staff in August of 2012. I was coming from a Behavior Resource position with the district, and was definitely ready for a change, so I wanted to go back into the classroom. I was fortunate to get into Lassiter, and due to room shortages, ended up sharing a very large room with Rochelle. In true Rochelle fashion, she took me under her wing and said we were going to make it work. (The funny thing was, two Mrs. Browns sharing a room made us stand out as a pair.) That's just one example of how Rochelle was with everyone, from new staff to student teachers to colleagues, but especially with students. The kids and staff saw her as their go-to person for everything. Colleagues sought her out because of who she was. For many years she was in charge of the Minority Teacher Recruitment Program, which put on a gala each year for the students and their families. I still treasure the year we joined her and her husband at it, and saw all of her hard work in putting it together.

Rochelle was a consummate professional, but would not hesitate to relax and have fun, from dancing to singing to encouraging the staff and students to join her and do the same. When students needed an ear, she was there. When they needed a snack, if she had it, they got it. The Youth Service Center in our schools are there for students and families, but staff visit as well for whatever they need. Rochelle was that person you visited at Lassiter.

Please consider renaming the Lassiter Youth Service Center in honor of Rochelle E. Brown. It would be a wonderful way to honor an awesome woman.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Peggy Brown

6th ELA/Crosby Middle School

To Whom it may concern

I am a former co-worker of Rochelle Brown, we worked together for 10 years at Lassiter Middle school, she was a wonderful friend, confidant, and dependable teacher that worked to lift up all of her students. Rochelle and I organized the MTRP program (Minority Teacher Recruitment Program). This program introduced minority student's to becoming educators. Rochelle was instrumental in helping students secure scholarships in the education field and she used her summers to take student on field trips that allowed them to explore and experience different cultures. She would help sell items to make money for school projects.

Rochelle was dedicated, hardworking, and passionate in whatever task she is given. There is no higher honor than a person that dedicated their life to serving others and that is what she did. It would be a beautiful display of appreciation to her and her family if she is honored with the Youth Service Center named after her.

With sincere regards

Bettye Wise

Counselor and friend

Dear Ms. Wright:

I am writing in support of naming Lassiter's FRYSC in honor of Rochelle E. Brown. I served as Lassiter's principal from 2011 to 2022 where I had the privilege of getting to know Rochelle Brown. She was an amazing teacher and dedicated her life to her students—not just teaching them the social studies curriculum but how to become the best versions of themselves. She was universally liked and respected by her peers and her students. In my eleven years at Lassiter, I did not receive one parent complaint about Ms. Brown; she always communicated frequently with parents, keeping them informed about their children's progress. Her sudden death was a shock to us all. She had such a zest for living and a joy for teaching. Her students always looked forward to her class. Over the years, Ms. Brown also mentored young teachers, helping them improve their interactions with students and their instructional practices; many of the young teachers she mentored over the years are successful teachers now because of Ms. Brown's guidance.

Ms. Brown could have easily transferred to a school closer to her home, but she made the long commute to Lassiter for twenty-six years because she knew that Lassiter's students needed and deserved dedicated educators. As a large Title 1 middle school that is consistently in the top five of the JCPS Needs Index, Lassiter can be a challenging school for teachers, but it was evident every morning that Ms. Brown loved coming to Lassiter to help her students learn and develop positive character traits. She got to know each of her students well and would often help the neediest of them by bagging up fruit, snacks, and milk or juice to put in their backpacks for after school since she knew they may not have much food at home. She also generously donated to our FRYSC to help students with their school and personal needs. She lived to teach and to help students.

Naming Lassiter's FRYSC in Rochelle Brown's honor would be a fitting tribute for a teacher who dedicated her life to Lassiter.

Sincerely,
Jon Cesler

Dr. Wright:

Rochelle Brown was one of the first people that I met when I transitioned from state government to teaching in 2006. As I toured the hallways of Lassiter Middle School, she greeted me with a warm welcome and encouraged me to reach out to her if I ever needed anything. As I began teaching, she would check on me periodically to see how I was doing and again if I needed anything. I would also see or overhear her checking on other teachers, some new, some seasoned, some struggling, some just because. When walking the hallways between classes, I watched her interacting with students, checking on them also. Asking for updates, such as, how's your mom doing, how's 8th grade going, how do you like World History, do you need anything. In 2009 Rochelle and I began working together on the same team. I got the pleasure of seeing her not only teaching students but interacting and engaging with them daily. The students thrived and looked forward to these interactions and they built great relationships. Rochelle and I would discuss things we noticed about students, those who had what they needed and those who didn't have what was needed. Whether it was academic interventions, uniforms, or school supplies; she'd have a plan of action for ensuring that every student had what they needed. As a team, we would support her efforts. Rochelle would often donate items to the Youth Service Center (YCS), so that the students would never know where those items came from. She would simply give the student(s) in need a hall pass to the YSC and they would come back smiling with their needs met. This was simply Rochelle's way of doing things. She helped everyone, whether they knew she was helping or not. She always gave from her heart and always stated that she knew what it felt like not to have what was needed. I could go on and on with examples and descriptions of Rochelle's generosity, care, and compassion, but I won't be able to do so with shedding tears not only for her absence, but also for the students who will not get the pleasure of being her students.

I hope that this serves as my endorsement of naming the Lassiter Middle School Youth Service Center in Memoriam the Rochelle E. Brown Youth Service Center.

Respectfully,

Teri Knight

Associate School Choice

JCPS Magnet Programs

LAM Building - 4309 Bishop Lane

Louisville, KY 40218

RingCentral: 502-509-0106

teri.knight@jefferson.kyschools.us

July 21, 2023

Dear Mrs. Wright,

I am writing in regards to supporting the renaming of the Lassiter YSC in honor of the late Rochelle Brown. I worked with Rochelle at Lassiter MS for five years and first hand witnessed her kindness to those in need in and outside of the classroom. Rochelle was a gentle soul and understood God's assignment for her life. I stand here united with others to encourage presenting this idea to the board to make that change.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need more information to support the cause.

With Highest Regard,

Dr. DeLena Alexander

July 29, 2023

Re: Rochelle E. Brown Youth Services Center

Hello, my name is Dr. DeShawn Burrell-Elem, and I am the immediate past President of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated, Eta Zeta Chapter. When I learned of the opportunity to speak about the beauty of Mrs. Rochelle E. Brown, I was ecstatic. I was blessed to be the President of my chapter when Rochelle decided that it was her time to join the ranks of selfless and community conscious women. She gave of her time, talents, and treasures from the moment she joined our organization. She volunteered with our youth and spent countless hours intentionally taking time to get to know individual women in the chapter. I had the fortunate experience of being at an event with Rochelle the day before her unexpected passing, sitting right next to her, and it is a memory I will hold near and dear as she had us laughing about getting back to the kids and all their personalities. I along with many others are devastated at the loss but would love to see her love for not only kids but Lassiter kids memorialized by naming the Family Resource Center after her.

Thank you for even considering this amazing honor, if anything else is needed from me, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Phone: 502-417-6055

Email: deshawn.burrell@gmail.com

TIBBS LAW OFFICE
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JULY 28, 2023

**SUZANNE MANUAL WRIGHT
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR
PROJECT MANAGER
JCPS
VANHOOSE EDUCATION
3332 NEWBURG ROAD
LOUISVILLE, KY 40218**

Ms. Wright,

I want to first say that I am a lifelong public school student and supporter. I went to Atlanta Public Schools throughout my career and my child goes to Tully Elementary school. I wanted to let you know that I am writing this letter asking you to strongly consider naming the Youth Services Center of Lassiter Middle School, to be named in the honor of Rochelle Brown.

Rochelle dedicated her entire career to teaching and service to the students of Jefferson County. I am friends with and studied law with her husband, Ken Brown and can tell you about the strong dedication Rochelle and Ken have the children of this community. Ken in his own right dedicated his career to public service in working at the EEOC in pursuing companies violating civil rights and fostering discrimination. I know that Rochelle was a hard worker and dedicated in her capacity with Lassiter and naming the Youth Center after her seems to be appropriate.

I appreciate you allowing me to send my endorsement and encouragement for you to consider her in the naming of the Youth Center. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me or email me at Tibbslaw@tibbslaw.com.

Sincerely,



Krsna Tibbs, Esq.



Kumar Rashad
Louisville Metro Council District 3
601 W. Jefferson Street Louisville, KY 40202. United States
(502) 574-1103
kumar.rashad@louisvilleky.gov

Aug 7, 2023

TO: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

FROM: MR KUMAR RASHAD
LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCILMAN DISTRICT 3

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE ROCHELLE BROWN YOUTH SERVICE CENTER

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Kumar Rashad and I am the Louisville Metro Council Member for District 3 in Louisville Kentucky. In my role I am responsible for the safety and economic advancement of our area. During my time in office and for many years before I took an official position, I have had the opportunity to witness the amazing efforts of Ms. Rochelle Brown.

Ms. Brown was an authentic educator who invested her entire being into her students, their families, and the communities they reside in. She spent countless hours volunteering in student-led organizations like the Minority Teacher Recruitment Project. She has fought for fairness and justice in many ways including finding new and innovative ways to level the playing field so that the most underserved communities like those that I represent can excel in academics and life.

Rochelle was truly an angel on this planet. She was not just a world class educator, she was a wife, a sister, a mother, and a great friend of mine who pulled me up during stressful times and kept me invigorated to tackle another day. She was the pure picture of beauty and class and set examples that both adults and students follow.

This is truly the Lord's Work that brought Rochell Brown to us on this earth and I fully support all efforts to name an institution and scholarship in her honor. as I pray that you all will support all efforts to honor this angel who has joined the mighty ranks of heaven.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kumar Rashad", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kumar Rashad
Louisville Metro Council Member District 3
502-574-1103
kumar.rashad@louisvilleky.gov

Dr. Carla Kent

14705 Oxford Hill Court
Louisville Kentucky
carlakent71@gmail.com

July 19th 2023

Dear Members of the school board,

Subject: Endorsement for Naming the Youth Service Center at Lassiter Middle School,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits. I am writing to express my heartfelt endorsement for the proposal to name the youth service center at Lassiter Middle School after my dear friend, Rochelle Brown, who tragically passed away recently. I believe this would be a befitting tribute to honor her remarkable contributions and lasting impact on the school community.

First and foremost, please accept my sincerest condolences for the loss of Rochelle Brown. She was an exceptional individual who dedicated herself tirelessly to the welfare and education of the students at Lassiter Middle School. Her untimely departure has left an indescribable void within our hearts and within the halls of the school she cared so deeply for.

Rochelle had an unwavering commitment to her role as an educator and youth advocate. Her compassion, enthusiasm, and genuine concern for the well-being of every student were evident in all aspects of her work. Countless students found solace, guidance, and inspiration through her dedicated service in the youth service center. Rochelle created a safe and nurturing space for students, fostering personal growth, and offering invaluable support during challenging times.

Moreover, Rochelle left an indelible mark on the school community through her innovative programs and initiatives. She was instrumental in implementing various projects that promoted student empowerment, mental health

awareness, and community engagement. Her tireless efforts in organizing workshops, mentoring students, and coordinating community outreach activities have made a lasting impact on countless young lives.

It is my firm belief that naming the youth service center at Lassiter Middle School after Rochelle would not only serve as a tribute to her remarkable legacy but also as an enduring source of inspiration for current and future students. The naming would encapsulate her dedication, passion, and the profound influence she had on the lives of students she touched.

I kindly request your thoughtful consideration of this endorsement. I am confident that honoring Rochelle in this manner would be a fitting testament to her selfless commitment to education and her profound influence on the students of Lassiter Middle School.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration. If there are any additional materials or testimonials that would assist you in this decision, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I wholeheartedly support the proposal to name the youth service center after Rochelle and remain at your disposal to provide any further information or assistance required.

With deepest regards,

Dr. Carla Kent

WALLACE LAW OFFICE

8921 Stone Green Way
Louisville, Kentucky 40220

CATHY I. WALLACE
ADMITTED IN KENTUCKY AND INDIANA

502 671-8005
cathy@wallacelawoffice.net

July 24, 2023

Ms. Suzanne Manual Wright
Executive Administrator-Project Manager
Jefferson County Public Schools
VanHoose Education Center
3332 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40218
via email at: Suzanne.Wright2@jefferson.kyschools.us

RE: Dedication of the Lassiter Middle School Youth Service Center

Dear Ms. Wright:

I am writing to express my endorsement for dedicating and naming the Lassiter Middle School Youth Service Center in memory of Rochelle Brown, a career JCPS teacher. I have been a friend of and known the Brown family for over 30 years. Rochelle always placed her family and her students before all else in her life. Rochelle loved and was dedicated to her students for the past 26 years. Her dedication was demonstrated through her work as a career teacher at Lassiter Middle School, where she was always willing to provide personal assistance, donate supplies, and give whatever else might be needed to and through the Youth Service Center. Rochelle's love for children flourished throughout her amazing career as a teacher. Rochelle followed her heart for 26 years at Lassiter, creating a place of peace and caring for her students, always making sure they had the care, support and the right tools to succeed.

Rochelle graced the gates of heaven far too early and I cannot think of a greater way to honor her life's work (and love) than through dedicating the Lassiter Middle School Youth Service Center in her name. Rochelle and the lives of the students, parents, and teachers she touched during her illustrious teaching career deserve to be immortalized by naming the Center "The Rochelle E. Brown Youth Service Center."

Please consider this request on behalf of Rochelle, her family and the many students she has positively and lovingly impacted during her career. Thank you for your caring consideration.

Sincerely,



Cathy Wallace

WHO'S WHO LOUISVILLE
Linking Business and Community Together
African American Profiles

July 14, 2023

Re: Naming Request "The Rochelle E. Brown Youth Service Center"
Lassiter Middle School youth service center

To whom it may concern:

I am honored to submit this letter of endorsement and support that the Lassiter Middle School youth service center be named "The Rochelle E. Brown Youth Service Center" in recognition of her tireless years of service and contributions. How would we know that we would soon say goodbye to someone who was not finished touching lives and enacting change for our next generation. She had a special way of relating to students, to see the powerful potential in them. She knew when to encourage them to continue moving on or tell them it is time to change so that they may direct their power to good ends. Rochelle Brown as a teacher, mentor and role-model was a champion providing the young men and women of Lassiter Middle School with the necessary skills, knowledge, confidence, self-esteem, and overall improvement in the way they view the world as they matriculate through school.

I have known Rochelle on a personal level for over twenty years. She embodied the best in the Louisville community – high academic achievement, tenacity, community service, faith and a love of family and friends.

Naming the center "The Rochelle E. Brown Youth Service Center" will stand as a constant reminder to all that enter the doors, the purpose of the center is to educate and improve the quality of life for the young men and women with the necessary skills, knowledge, and support by caring people.

"Who's Who Louisville African American Profiles" is a local well-known organization that has for more than two decades highlighted and celebrated the accomplishments and achievements of African American business and community leaders in Louisville. Our 300+ page coffee quality tabletop publications and unveiling and awards ceremonies have been hosted at the Muhammad Ali Center, Churchill Downs and the Yum Center. Our twelve-person advisory board included Jefferson County Public School Superintendent, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, President of Spalding University, presidents and executives from Louisville top business and community organizations.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Duane M. Lightfoot, Sr.
President and Publisher
Who's Who Louisville
duane@whoswholouisville.com
502 240-0444



CHRIST CENTER MINISTRIES, CHURCH

PASTOR TROY E. DUNCAN, SR.

1821 WEST MUHAMMAD ALI BLVD., LOUISVILLE, KY 40203

P.O. BOX 991393, LOUISVILLE, KY 40267-1393

7/26/23

Suzanne Manual Wright
Executive Administrator Project Management
Jefferson County Public Schools
Van Hoose Education Center
3332 Newburg Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40218

Dear Ms. Wright:

My name is Pastor Troy E. Duncan, Sr. I am the senior pastor of Christ Center Ministries Church located in the inner city of Louisville, Kentucky, as well as a retiree of and a current employee with Jefferson County Public Schools with more than 30 years of service.

It is my immense pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of the Brown family. This letter is in support to honor the tireless efforts of Rochelle Elaine Brown by naming the Youth Service Center at Lassiter Middle School to honor her work. Prior to her recent and untimely passing, Mrs. Brown, a former classroom teacher, devoted her entire 26-year educational career to improving the culture and climate at Lassiter Middle School, and advocating for equity and equality, even during a time when it was not overtly a core vision for the Jefferson County Public School system. For thousands of students, she was a teacher, a mentor, and an advocate, while also working collaboratively with the Lassiter faculty/staff and administrative teams as an instructional leader. She was fondly loved and respected by her Lassiter school community.

In a time where the commitment to choose education as a career path has declined in popularity, Mrs. Brown responded to it as a higher calling and a lifelong passion! The tireless efforts she gave towards building up students to become pillars of society will continue to be remembered by each of those students throughout their lifetimes.

The mission of the Statewide Family Resource Youth Service Center (FRYSC) was established in 1990, by the Kentucky Education Reform ACT (KERA); a couple of years prior to Mrs. Brown, having received her B.S. in Education. As you are well aware, the purpose of the center is to help bridge the gap between students achieving at their highest levels of potential, and the many barriers that may be of hindrance. Although, Mrs. Brown was not officially employed as a FRYSC coordinator, her tireless efforts were spent educating students and bridging the gaps that hindered them from reaching both their academic and social/emotional potential, in and out of the classroom.

Please join me, the loving Brown family, the Lassiter school community, and the greater Louisville community in honoring the memory of Mrs. Brown by continuing her legacy at the school she was so devoted to and naming the center: The Rochelle E. Brown Youth Service Center.

Yours Truly,

Pastor Troy E. Duncan, Sr.

Pastor Troy E. Duncan, Sr
Christ Center Ministries Church

At Christ Center Ministries Church.....Where Everybody is Somebody!!!!!!!!!!!!

Suzanne Manual Wright
Executive Administrator
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9515 Truscott Court
Prospect, KY 40059
rowett6@gmail.com

July 27, 2023

Dear Ms. Wright,

This letter is intended to offer my support in naming the Lassiter Middle School Youth Service Center after an esteemed and adored teacher, Mrs. Rochelle E. Brown. Rochelle was a dear friend to me for over 25 years, and from the beginning of our friendship, it was clear that she had a passion for teaching children. Whether we were having a couple's date night or hanging out with our families, Rochelle expressed an undeniable love for children and a desire to help them learn. I can go on endlessly about her many accomplishments, her generous spirit, and all the ways she has impacted my life, my children, and others around her, but instead I would like to share a simple, personal story with you to illustrate the reason Rochelle is an ideal candidate for such an honor.

Several years ago, during one of our many shopping trips together, I gravitated toward a rack of school uniforms. As a mother of four children, three of whom were school-aged, I was always looking for a deal on uniforms. Rochelle's kids were much older than my own, and their schools did not require uniforms, so I was a bit surprised when Rochelle made her way over to the rack and began to chuck a considerable number of uniform shirts in her basket. When I questioned why she was shopping so earnestly for uniforms, she shared with me that she was shopping for "my kids at school." She obviously picked up on my non-verbal follow-up question and proceeded to explain to me that each year she buys uniform shirts, deodorant, socks, and other personal items to have on hand for students. She expressed how important it was that students feel accepted. If a student didn't have a uniform shirt or a clean shirt for that matter, she could help them avoid getting into trouble or being embarrassed by providing them with a new shirt. She was so thoughtful that not only did she consider that students might need shirts, but she also ensured that they had soap, deodorant, and other personal hygiene items. This was not something that she ever utilized school funds for but paid for with her own hard-earned money. I left that simple interaction on a Saturday afternoon forever changed. My friend was truly a special person.

I have never encountered a teacher who was so personally and passionately invested in ensuring that all students were treated with dignity, respect, and care as Rochelle Brown. More importantly, there are so few teachers in our world who demonstrate every day both a love for teaching and a love for the kids they encounter. Rochelle was an exemplary teacher because she did both so well, and she is so deserving to be



honored for all her work at Lassiter Middle and the youth center that she committed so much time and effort outside the classroom to. Please consider this my resounding endorsement for naming Lassiter's Youth Service Center – The Rochelle E. Brown Youth Service Center, and please know that if there is anything that I can do to support the center that she loved, I will.

Thank you for your consideration,
Tabatha Rowe

7-28-23

To Whom It May Concern,

It gives me great pleasure to write a letter on behalf of my loving sorority sister Triumphant Soror Rochelle Brown to be honored at Lassiter Middle School by having the Family Resource Center named in her honor. Rochelle Brown was a sweet spirit and although I only had the pleasure of knowing her for almost three years, I lead her to her journey of being a part of our wonderful sisterhood Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated. From what I know she touched the lives of so many students and staff, if doing the math correctly if she serviced 150 students a year in 26 years, she touched the lives of almost 4,000 students in her career. All her years were at Lassiter Middle and not too many educators can say that they spent their entire career at one school.

In looking at the big picture I am sure she encountered many challenges of staff changes, administrative changes, tragedy of students and staff but she persevered and stayed at Lassiter despite which showed her love for the school and the community. Triumphant Rochelle Brown loved her family and was a proud grandmother. The energy she brought to any environment was truly amazing, she was loved by so many. I am still in disbelief regarding her passing. Legacy is so important and naming the center after Triumphant Soror Rochelle Brown will allow her legacy to continue and spark conversation about who she was. Twenty-six years from now her family and grandchildren would be able to look back to see how many lives she impacted and how much she was loved and cherished.

Below is a tribute from my sorority...

Tribute to Triumphant Rochelle Brown

In sisterhood we found our strength, Our bond unbreakable, our love immense. But now our hearts are filled with pain, - As one of us has left this earthly plane. You were a light that shone so bright, Your spirit free, your smile so right. We shared our secrets, hopes, and dreams, Our sisterhood forever it seems. But now we mourn your passing dear, And though you're gone, you're always near. In our memories you will live on, Our sister, our friend, forever strong. So, rest now, dear sister, in eternal peace, your love and light will never cease. And though we'll miss you every day, In our hearts you'll always stay.

This anonymous poem, "is dedicated to our beloved sister. Today, we honor her memory, not only as a sorority sister but as a cherished friend, confidante, and leader. We carry her spirit within us, knowing that she would want us to continue her work, to be the voices of change, and to uplift those around us, just as she did.

Today, we come together to celebrate her legacy, to find solace in our shared sisterhood, and to reflect upon the profound impact she had on our lives and the community we serve. Our Triumphant sister Brown, beautiful inside and out, a shining star among us, embodied the very essence of what it means to be Finer. She exemplified the principles upon which our sorority was built scholarship, service, sisterhood, and finer womanhood. Through her unwavering dedication and unwavering commitment, she touched the lives of many and made a lasting impact on our organization.

When we think of the essence of service, for Triumphant Brown, it extends beyond the service that we can physically see. She gave without receiving anything in return. Her service to her Zeta family can be witnessed through personal conversations on how to be supportive mothers and wives. She was a mentor, a great educator, providing wisdom, words of encouragement and support.

Triumphant Brown had a unique ability to see the greatness in others, even when they didn't see it themselves. She was intentional about being nice and kind to those that crossed her path. She poured into others and was a perfect alignment of regal and fierce.

She could be found sending messages simply to check on and encouraging her blue and white family. She was proud to be a finer woman of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated. Triumphant Brown was a gentle and caring soul, who lived life to the fullest. She was kind, patient, elegant, graceful, loving, supportive, she left a lasting impression on our hearts, for that we say Thank You.

As we gather here today, we are reminded of the moments we shared with our beloved sister. Her presence brightened every room she entered, and her infectious laughter uplifted our spirits. Whether it was through her admiration and passionate career in education, her service to the community, or her unwavering support of her sisters, family and friends, she embodied the true spirit of Zeta Phi Beta.

Though she may no longer be physically present with us, her spirit lives on in our hearts and in the legacy, she leaves behind. She loved her family and was so proud to share stories. We thank you for sharing her with us. While we wish we had more time, let us honor her by continuing the work she started, by being beacons of hope, and by embodying the values she held so dear.

Today, as we celebrate the life of our sister, mourn her untimely departure, and commit to preserving her memory forever within the cherished halls of our sisterhood. May her soul find eternal rest, and may we, her sisters, carry forward her legacy with pride, resilience, and a determination to make the world a better place, just as she did.

Done by order of the
Eta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated
This Twentieth Day of May 2023
Louisville, Kentucky
Brunhilda Williams – Curington President
Read By: Soror JaDora Parks

Please consider naming the Family Resource after my beloved my sister Triumphant Soror Rochelle Brown

Sincerely,

Tenesha Marshall
JCPS School Counselor
502-773-3598

Friday, July 28, 2023

Suzanne Manual Wright
Executive Administrator Project Management
Jefferson County Public Schools
3332 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40218

Re: Endorsement Letter for Rochelle E. Brown Youth Service Center

Good day Suzanne:

I am Brunhilda C. Williams – Curington, President of the Eta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. Rochelle was a beloved sister of our sorority chapter. Though she had not been a member for a long time, our sister was always there and exemplified our precepts: Service, Scholarship, Finer Womanhood and Sisterly Love. She embraced service to the maximum and we feel that it is so appropriate to honor her by renaming the Lassiter Middle School Youth Service Center in her honor. As the scripture says: “Let the work that I have done speak for me.”

I believe in giving a person their flowers and this would be such a beautiful way to honor her memory for her children, her family, her sorority sisters and her friends. The Rochelle E. Brown Youth Service Center would be a real time edifice where we could gather for hands-on engagement, and contribute to a visible lasting measure for our loved one. A twenty-six (26) year testament to working, loving and engaging children in the same location is deserving of this great honor.

I believe the best explanation for us is to give in support and endorsement of The Rochelle E. Brown Youth Service Center is to attach the tribute that was written by her Zeta Sister Cohort and read at her funeral. Our chapter members all love Rochelle but the group of sisters that were inducted with her had a very special bond.

We, in the Eta Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated, stand ready in every sense of the word, to be of assistance to endorse and work toward seeing the unveiling of the Rochelle E. Brown Youth Service Center. Please feel free to contact us as you move forward on this project.

Very truly yours,

Brunhilda C. Williams - Curington

President, Eta Zeta Chapter

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated

P.O. Box 3054 Louisville, KY 40201

Ashley Brooks, MSSW
1714 Loney Lane
Louisville, KY
Ashley.Brooks0896@gmail.com

July 31, 2023

Subject: Endorsement of Naming the Youth Service Center at Lassiter Middle School

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing this letter to express my endorsement for naming the Youth Service Center at Lassiter Middle School after Rochelle Brown, a loved friend of mine, who passed away recently. I believe this would be an uplifting gesture that would honor Rochelle and create a lasting impact on the community and students whom she loved so much.

I want to extend my condolences to you all as Rochelle's loss is one that is felt by many. I had not known Rochelle very long, but in the few years that I was blessed to have her in my life, she had shown me so much love and support and helped me through tough times. Rochelle's enthusiasm, compassion, and unmatched passion for her students and for the community could be felt by every person whose lives she touched. Rochelle held such an unwavering commitment to the students at Lassiter Middle School and I believe this would honor her and even serve as an inspiration for her students and all of the students to come.

Thank you for your consideration. If there is anything else that you all need, please reach out to me.

Best,

Ashley Brooks, MSSW
Ashley S Brooks