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August 25, 2015

Dr. Donna Hargens, Superintendent  
Diane Porter, JCPS Board Member  
Jefferson County Public Schools  
3332 Newburg Road  
Louisville, KY 40218

Dear Dr. Hargens and Ms. Porter,

I am writing as Executive Director of YouthBuild Louisville, a youth workforce training agency in the Smoketown neighborhood and as an old friend and colleague of Ernest "Camp" Edwards. It is my understanding that the Board and Administration of JCPS are currently considering naming the newly acquired campus that was Presbyterian Community Center. It is to this end that I throw my idea into the mix to retain the name of the Child Development Center and expand it to the campus on Hancock – the Camp Edwards Education Complex.

The child development center was named for Camp at its dedication because of his love for the residents, his commitment to rebuild the old PCC in its current location on Hancock Street and his long-time commitment to the community. He was loved and respected by many in Smoketown.

In addition to his Smoketown connection, he was my first college professor. He was a kind, encouraging and joyful teacher. His love for education ran deep. Numerous scholarships have been given in his name and I think that I am correct in saying that he began the All Stars college scholarship program in Smoketown. For these and many other reasons, I am hopeful that you will consider this possibility. I believe that community members will appreciate this act of remembrance and honor.

Sincerely,

Lynn Rippy, Executive Director  
YouthBuild Louisville

August 31, 2015

To whom it may concern,

I would like to recommend that Jefferson County Public Schools rename the building formerly known as the Presbyterian Community Center after Mr. Camp Edwards.

During his lifetime Camp Edwards was one of the most notable figures associated with the Smoketown neighborhood. He was known for instilling great values into the young people of the community. He dedicated his life to the development of Smoketown through many leadership roles at his church, Grace Hope Presbyterian Church, and the Presbyterian Community Center (P.C.C.).

I personally benefitted from Camp's influence as someone who grew up in Smoketown. When I was a toddler I attended the Presbyterian Child Development Center. My childhood consisted of participation in the programs at P.C.C. I even received support during my college years from the Center. Camp was instrumental in making sure those programs and support was available. When I graduated from college and moved back home to Louisville, he saw to it that I serve as one of P.C.C.'s Board of Directors. He also became one of my closest mentors. There are so many people who can say he touched their lives in similar ways.

Camp was very effective in bringing outside investment and awareness to Smoketown. The building at the corner of Jacob and Hancock Streets is a result of the capital campaign he helped spearheaded. He understood that P.C.C. was an anchor institution that was critical to development of the people in the community.

I think it would be a strong sign of commitment and appreciation for Jefferson County Public Schools to name this building in his honor. If so, hopefully children will ask, "Who is Camp Edwards?" I pray that their curiosity will lead them to learn about the man who helped make Smoketown such a special place for so many people.

Sincerely,

Delquan Dorsey  
Executive Director  
Governor's Office of Minority Empowerment



Louisville Metro Council  
President David W. Tandy

August 31, 2015

Dr. Donna Hargens, Superintendent  
Van Hoose Education Center  
3332 Newburg Road  
Louisville, KY 40218

Dear Superintendent Hargens:

First let me express my support for renaming of the Jefferson County Public School Center located at 701 S. Hancock Street for the late Ernest "Camp" Edwards.

Camp Edwards was a great contributor of the Smoketown community. As a Smoketown native, Camp received his Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Louisville. He later became the first African American Associate Executive Presbyterian of the Presbyterian Seminary and was instrumental in getting the Presbyterian Church USA to relocate to Louisville.

Throughout his career, Camp maintained his connection to Smoketown as a member of the Grace Hope Presbyterian Church as well as the Presbyterian Community Center, as part-time counselor, director of neighborhood services, social worker, board member and interim director. He worked in several county youth programs, while also instructing as a Professor at Jefferson Community College. He was a founder of a number of neighborhood organizations, as well as Director of Community Outreach for Just Solutions mediations services. Camp was honored as one of the City's best and brightest neighborhood leaders!

As you can see from the life work and legacy Camp Edwards left in the Smoketown neighborhood I believe it is in renaming the JCPS Center at 701 S. Hancock Street would be a fitting tribute. Not only did he lend his time, talent, and treasure, to empowering the youth of the Smoketown neighborhood, but also served as a positive role model to further perpetuate the idea of high achievement in the African-American community.

If there is anything that I or my office can do to assist you in the future, please feel free to contact me.

With warmest regards, I am...

Very truly yours,

David W. Tandy  
President, Louisville Metro Council  
4<sup>th</sup> District Metro Councilman

DWT/lfg