

February 27, 2017

Ms. Virginia Perry
Arkansas Department of Education
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Ms. Perry,

Sponsoring 501C-3 - The McGehee Desha Alumni Community Center, Inc., MDACC, has been a 501C-3, non-profit organization since August 23, 2005. MDACC is a multi-social services organization working to increase the number of students graduating from high school and college in our community.

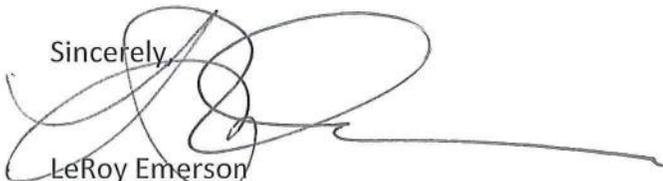
My plan is to re-open Morris Booker Memorial High School & College (grades 9th – 12th) as a Charter Boarding School for Young Men as **Morris Booker Memorial Charter High School**. The school is located in Dermott City School district.

Morris Booker Memorial High School & College - the first public school in Dermott was built for black children during Reconstruction. It was replaced by a state school known as Chicot County High School. In 1899, a boarding school, the Southeast Baptist Academy, opened. It evolved into Morris Booker Memorial High School and College by 1934. Under the leadership of Dr. York Williams (my deceased 2nd cousin), an alumnus who arrived in 1957, the school emerged into a first rate academic institution. Students began leaving for integrated schools in the 1970s and the academy eventually closed.

The facilities are located at 800 N Norwood, 401 W Beech and 817 N School, Dermott Arkansas. The location includes classrooms, dormitories, cafeteria with commercial kitchen and gymnasium that will accommodate 100 students.

We are determined to provide a stable, consistent, disciplined and structured environment which is both educational and therapeutic in nature for young men 12 through 18 years of age. With the ultimate focus on improving the lives of young men by eliminating the cycle of poverty, minimizing the dropout rates and reducing the chances of incarceration. We will utilize a one-on-one approach in a relaxed but structured environment, young men will be able to work to close learning gaps and work ahead in their academics. In addition to classroom style learning, young men will participate in horsemanship and agriculture electives. Learning how to care for animals, ride horses, grow a garden, prepare meals and complete chores not only allows for the development of future employable skills but also fosters a spirit of independence and growth. The goal is to provide students a foundation for creating men that make a positive contribution to their communities.

Sincerely,



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