



MEDIA RELEASE

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LETTER FROM THE HOPEWELL YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

Good Afternoon Hopewell Youth and Families,

First and Foremost on behalf of The Youth Services Commission which is the governing body of Hopewell Office on Youth, we miss each and everyone of you more than you could ever know. We pray that during these last few months you have been able to get some much needed time with family.

We realize that the last umpteen days have been quite concerning for everyone with the news of Hopewell Office On Youth losing funding to different departments in the city... We too were saddened by the reallocation of our funds- but these things happen.

As the current chair, I feel that it is imperative that you know that yes! funds were denied but our mission and vision of educating, empowering, and elevating the youth is still very much on track- solely because of all the amazing community partners we have made over the years.

We want to take this time to thank each young person, community leader, educator, current and retired elected officials, and business owners, etc., who were nice enough to speak so highly of our efforts via social media, via newspaper articles, and news interviews- we could not respond to everyone but know that your kind words reminded us that over the past 6 years we have had an impact on the youth individually and the community collectively.

We have been reminded to "Not Grow Weary In Well Doing" and we can't thank you all enough for that. Contrary to popular belief -The Office is not dead- we have been working diligently behind the scenes, since we lost funding to decide how to move forward after hitting this proverbial bump in the road.

As a collective body, we have agreed that we do not want to be a part of any division in this 9 mile city that we love so much. Our goal has always been to fill in the gaps in the city for youth i.e. Workforce Development, Youth Development, Culturally, Economically, Emotionally, and Socially. The OOOY's purpose has always been to implement the strategies to accomplish the goals and objectives as established and authorized by the youth services commission.

We know this is an incredibly uncertain time and there is a huge range of feelings out there, please know that we understand, and we are working to ensure we can provide you and your family the resources, services, and programs you have come to appreciate and love from us.

We are hopeful that we can all come to some type of resolve soon, because in times like these the children are the ones being affected most.

Thanks for Your Support,

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