

From: [Quinones, Matt](#)
To: [Rosenson, Valerie](#)
Subject: Fw: Domus Knight Program Memorandum of Agreement
Date: Tuesday, September 08, 2020 3:14:04 PM
Attachments: [Domus Knights letter from families.pdf](#)

for weekly communications.

From: Holley, Rishonda N <rishonda_n_holley@optum.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 2:26 PM
To: George, Andy; Altamura, Michael; fcherry@stamfordct.gov; Tarzia, Nicola; bhamman@stamfordct.gov; Pioli, Jackie; Dauplaise, Daniel; Burke, Jennienne; Heftman, Jackie; Mayor's Office
Cc: markingle.pastor@gmail.com; jacksonfamily3@hotmail.com; peterlil@aol.com; marysommer1@gmail.com; josiahslindsay@gmail.com; jford@faithtabct.org; evavoglia@hotmail.com; hymna.michael.a@gmail.com; womenonwatch@gmail.com; Quinones, Matt; Lucero, Tamu; Manka, Raymond; mduggan@stamfordct.gov; Arenas, Chris; Newton, Elreatha; rishonda076@gmail.com
Subject: Domus Knight Program Memorandum of Agreement

Good Day All,

My hope is you're doing well and staying safe as we continue to navigate during these challenging times. On behalf of myself and the many other parents directly impacted by the Domus Knight program, I am writing to you. As many of you are aware the future of the program within Stamford High School is uncertain, it's safe to say removing the program will be detrimental to the overall success of our students. As a group we ask that you carefully reconsider the decision to eliminate a program that has helped our children in countless ways. Please note, if the decision is upheld, not only will a student be impacted, however, families as well. Together as one our mission is to bridge GAPS and bring communities together. Please find the attached letter for your review that express our concerns collectively. Thank you in advance for your time, attention and reconsideration we truly appreciate it.

Kind Regards,

Rishonda Holley

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September 8, 2020

Dear Mr. Andy George, Mr. Mike Altamura, Mr. Fritz Chery, Mr. Nicola Tarzia, Mrs. Becky Hamman, Mrs. Jackie Pioli, Mr. Daniel Dauplaise, Mrs. Jennienne Burke, Mrs. Jackie Heftman and Mayor David Martin:

Many of us have signed the petition, made phone calls, and written letters. We are writing this letter collectively, as the parents of the students enrolled in the Domus Knights program. We have the most to lose by your vote to deny the Memorandum of Agreement for the Domus Knights and Domus Vikings.

We cannot understand why you would vote against a program that is helping our children and does not cost the district anything. For years, our kids have struggled in school. We appreciate all that the guidance counselors, social workers, and psychologists who support our kids have done, but it was just not enough.

The services the family advocates provide are not available from regular school supports. The family advocates reach our children in ways no one else has been able to. Perhaps that is because they are role models, who look like our children, listen to our children, and love our children. They do whatever it takes to make them successful: they pick them up in the morning, they find them when they aren't in class, they provide a safe space when school gets too stressful, and they make school fun with birthday cakes and attendance challenges and field trips. They help our families when we struggle with expenses. If we need school supplies or sports equipment or help with food, they are there. We have seen a marked improvement in our children's academic engagement, attendance, behavior, and overall mental health since working with the family advocates.

You say our voices matter. You say you want Brown and Black kids to succeed. And then you cruelly remove the first in-school program that has ever delivered on that promise. And it does not cost the city a thing to continue the program. Your vote against an excellent fully funded program that helps struggling Black and Brown students find success in school speaks volumes about the value you place on our children's lives. You have communicated loud and clear that Black and Brown lives don't matter.

We ask that you please revisit the MOA and approve it immediately as our children are back in school without their family advocates during a very stressful time.

Sincerely,

Rishonda Holley
Eufemia Fuentes
Chris Viteretto
Luz Garcia
Jennifer Mussenden
Helio Alcantara
Olga Reyes (continued on the following page)

Joselin Peguero
Anthony Angeles
Wilson Sosa
Daphney Drisca
Shanita Bates
Dincent Riley
Christina Putzig
Galit Roloff
Michelle Darden
Andrea Hardley
Monica Foskey
Dainearra Fallins-Pryor
Shanta Faulkner
Tiffing Lyles
Bianca Pagan
Nelly Rodriguez
Angelica Pagan
Natasha Smith
Lakena Jones
Kariana Bawden
Sara Padilla
Ally Rivera
Avrick Rivera
Brenda Tax
Jennifer Torres
Emilia Jackowska
Erik Garcia
Facundo Castro Vargas
Pierre Petion
Mimi Pelissier
Shalonn Velez
Patrick Lyons
Heny Hernandez
Elsa Rosales
Sharon McDermott
Althia Robinson
Romualda Raymundo
Cecilia Suero
Cindy Diego
Ashley Diego
Christopher Thompson
Deirdre Bennett
Erika Lugo
Maria Aquino
Aisha Sheikh (continued on the following page)

Qaiser Sheikh
Francoise Cantave
Maguy Joseph
Marisel Sanchez
Edward DeLeon
Shirley Maldonado
Felicia Drungo
Raquel Patterson
Paula Moore
Laura Radesky
Gunner Radesky
Kathy Swaby
Randy Swaby
Yvette Lama
Victor Lama
Liz Whitfield
Kamisha Williams
Betty Gabriel
Patricia Lima
Leo Lima
Ronaldo Urbina
Selvin Gonzalez
Sandra Powell
Nakia Morris
Sharon Guy
Margarita Escobar
Nilka Cuevas
Yaneth Sandoval
Monee Holley
Miguel Jimenez
Kinshasha Rhodes
Ninfa Morales
Simone Perry
Stella Serpe
Sandra Arias
Cela Blandon
Ada Rodriguez
Sulma Ramirez
Odetto Moreno
Milton Banegas
Jennifer Cedeno
Dawn Bessard
Phil Bessard
Elbis Rivas
Grisel Rivera (continued on the following page)

Edward Honnen
Yazmina Palma
Edy Palma
Claudia Rodriguez
Miguel Rodriguez
Elvira Recinos
Vilma Medrano
Shante Williams
Courtney Williams
Teresa Williams
Gloria Najera Coy
Angela Hidalgo
Tiffany Malki
Patrice Malki
Olga Rossil Morales
Marlon Rossil
Samantha Salmon
Rogelio Delgado
Pleshaun Bing
Patricia Trujillo
Latoya Kemp
Bianca Castillo
Evelyn Suarez
Jude Dervil
Belonny Dervil
Ebony Byrd
Tracy Ferrara
Kamilah Brown
Eve Saint
Analisa Martinez
Jennifer Morris
Natalie Diggs
Veronica Rivera
Martha Velez
Trinia Holman
Miriam Aragon
Michelle Woodberry
Keisha Taylor
Dexter Davis
Victoria Togores
Carmen Jimenez
Pamela Wright
Libanesa Dilone
Wyteria Bates
Nemours Thelemaque (continued on the following page)

September 8, 2020

Yverlie Saintilus
Maria Guterriez
Dwain Pearson
Janika Reed
Jesus Martinez
Doronda Carter
Monica Lopez
Veronica Sullivan
Wanda Cruz
Carmen Jimenez
Julitza Robles
Sonia Galeano
Yeimy Lazo
Jennifer Torres
Dionne Beaumont

CC.

Mr. Matt Quinones, President Board of Representatives
Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent, Stamford Public Schools
Reverend Robert A. Jackson, Pastor, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal
Reverend Mark Lingle, The Interfaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut
Reverend Dr. Joseph Ford, Chair, NAACP Stamford Religious Affairs
Mr. Peter Lillienthal, United Jewish Federation, Jewish Community Relations
Council
Mr. Josiah Lindsay, President, The 100 Black Men of Stamford
Dr. Evelyn Avoglia, Convener, Connecticut Undoing Racism
The Honorable Mary Sommer, Stamford Stands Against Racism
Mr. Michael Hyman, Advisor, The Equity Institute
Ms. Joan Krantz, Women on Watch (WOW)
Mr. Raymond Manka, Principal, Stamford High School
Mr. Michael Duggan, Executive Director, Domus
Mr. Chris Arenas, Co-Director, Domus Knights
Ms. Erica Newton, Co-Director, Domus Knights