



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

VINCENT C. GRAY
CHAIRMAN

February 5, 2010

Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor
District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 316
Washington, DC 20004

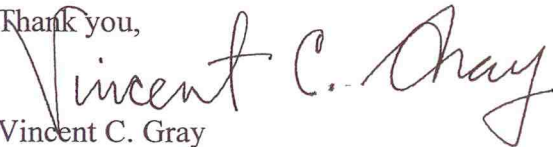
Dear Mayor Fenty:

Yesterday over 100 students from Hardy Middle School came to the John A. Wilson Building to meet with you to express their dissatisfaction with your administration's decision to remove their principal, Patrick Pope, at the end of the school year. Since you were unavailable, I, along with Councilmembers Harry Thomas, Jr. and Kwame Brown, held an impromptu hearing to listen to the students' concerns. Their passion and advocacy on behalf of the "Hardy Family" and Mr. Pope was impressive.

These students acted in support of their Principal, in defense of their education, and to demand accountability from the city's elected officials. Their experience at the Wilson Building hopefully was an invaluable lesson in civic activism for them. I admire their zeal and invited them to testify at the upcoming Youth Hearing on Saturday, February 13, 2010, in order to continue to express their disappointment with the decision to take Mr. Pope away from their academic future.

I encourage you to meet with these young people as soon as possible to listen to their views because clearly they will be most affected by your administration's decision to remove Mr. Pope from Hardy. They deserve to have their opinions heard and to get an explanation of this decision directly from you. After hearing from them, I have no doubt you will come to the same conclusion I have – the school's current leadership represents the best of the District of Columbia Public Schools and should continue in its current state.

Thank you,


Vincent C. Gray

