

ATTACHMENT 8A

August 4, 2017

Lamar Fisher
Mayor at Large
City of Pompano Beach
100 West Atlantic Blvd
Pompano Beach, FL 33064

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Dear Mayor Fisher:

My name is Denise Lewis, mother of Faith Lewis, one of the participants of this Summer's Youth Employment Training Program hosted by New Horizon Community Development Corporation Inc. This is an awesome program which needs to be repeated every year, giving our young people an opportunity to work in "the real world", become responsible, get on the job training, attend personal development workshops and learn while they earned money.

I was very impressed with how my 14-year-old has matured over the course of the eight weeks. She applied for the job, underwent an interview and was one of 90 students who were selected out of a pool of 200 applicants. Needless to say, it was very competitive. She was blessed to be stationed at the Giant Steps Academy on Martin Luther King Boulevard in Pompano Beach. There she learned patience, how to work with babies and toddlers, managed her time wisely and work as a part of a team. The personal development workshops on Monday equipped her with the appropriate communication skill, tips on how to dress for the various work environments, appropriate telephone etiquette, skills in dealing with people and how to conduct herself in a professional manner on and off the job. Faith became determined on saving her money and became very responsible in managing her finances by setting aside part for tithing, saving and purchasing clothing and supplies for back to school. So far, she has saved close to \$900.00 thanks to the budgeting training she underwent at the Summer Youth Employment Training Program. Not only did it make her more responsible but it boosted her confidence to the point that she wants to give back to her community in some way after she graduates from college.

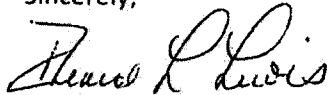
Pompano Beach is great community; I am not just saying it just to tickle your ears but I have resided here for over 17 years. My family has taken advantage of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and in June of this year the Unity in the Community presented my son, David Lewis with a \$1,000.00 Scholarship towards college. Our youths are looking to us for positive role models and direction for their lives. How better to serve them by giving them the opportunity every summer to become useful and productive individuals in the community. This not only allows our Partners to invest in our young people but gives the students an opportunity to participate in the process of Economics and what it takes to earn money. It also helps us parents because it empowers our kids financially so they too can contribute to the household budget.

I am very passionate when it comes to our young people because I have 4 ranging from 11 – 28, all of whom I am raising by myself. If they are not challenged, they become idle so I make it my business to connect them with services and resource to help thwart any unsavory behavior. Not everyone has the time to run the gamut; it is so easy for them to become distracted and get "off track" due to peer pressure, complacency and not having a sense of purpose or direction. This program gives them purpose, identity and opportunity to be useful and productive citizens of their community.

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Let's give the talent we have right here in Pompano a chance to mature and thrive by giving the "Green Light" for the Summer Youth Employment Program to return every year. They are the future teachers, lawyers, doctors and even Mayors in the making. I trust you will give this your most careful consideration as you make your decisions for the next fiscal year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise L. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Denise" and last name "Lewis" clearly distinguishable.

Denise L. Lewis
Mother of Faith Lewis

Cc: Commissioner Beverly Perkins
District 4, City of Pompano Beach

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