



Public Charter High School

November 28, 2007

Dear Friend of Thurgood Marshall Academy:

As a former long-time resident of Ward 8, I know the importance to this community of having schools with an unwavering commitment to high educational standards and a passionate determination to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of our young people. That is exactly the kind of school Thurgood Marshall Academy (TMA) has become, and for this we have Joshua Kern to thank. Josh wasn't the only person who contributed to the dream of building such a school in Ward 8. But he was one of a small handful of co-founders present at the creation of TMA, and he has been the constant steward of its development over the past seven years. Thanks to him, a start-up charter school made up of a small group of 9th-graders attending classes on one floor of a rented Sunday school building has been transformed into an established institution that is, in Marion Barry's phrase, "the jewel of its community."

When Josh first informed the Board of Trustees of his desire to move on, we were saddened by the thought of his departure and worried about how to find a suitable successor—a concern I'm sure many of you share. But as we started planning for a new leader at Thurgood Marshall Academy, we developed a growing appreciation of the school's strengths. TMA has an excellent corps of academic and administrative leaders and staff to inspire the daily work of the school; an exceptional faculty who bring learning alive in our classrooms; an extraordinary support base—individual donors, foundations, law firm partners—who are deeply committed to the ideals that animate our school; and families and students who are fiercely loyal to TMA and its programs. Given these resources, a difficult search for a new leader seems an affirmative rite of passage. The Board of Trustees is excited to be part of the next phase of Thurgood Marshall Academy's growth.

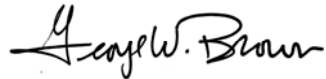
To advise us in choosing a new executive leader, the Trustees have selected Carney, Sandoe & Associates, a national educational placement firm which has brought us many of our top faculty and administrators, to facilitate this search. Carney, Sandoe will work with the Search Committee to identify candidates, review applications, conduct interviews, and recommend finalists to the Board of Trustees. We are fortunate to have among our Trustees a renowned scholar in leadership development, Elizabeth Hale, president of the Institute for Educational Leadership. She will serve as co-chair of the Search Committee along with Jerome L. Epstein, a partner at Jenner & Block who has been devoted to the interests of our students since he served as a tutor during the first year of TMA's existence.

To help guide the search, our consultants will hold focus groups early in the New Year with students, parents, faculty, funders, and community leaders to gather ideas about the school's strengths, challenges, and priorities for the future. Once semi-finalists have been selected in the

spring, we will invite all of these stakeholders to attend presentation sessions with the candidates and offer their assessments to the Search Committee. The Search Committee will carefully review these assessments when recommending finalists to the Board of Trustees.

Please join the Board in thanking Josh Kern for the school he has built. And join all of us in the exciting task of building the future of Thurgood Marshall Academy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George W. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

George Brown
Chair, Board of Trustees