

**BATES AREA CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001**

**RESOLUTION**

**IN OPPOSITION TO THE LATIN AMERICAN YOUTH CENTER'S PROPOSED USE OF THE FORMER JOHN F. COOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING, 30 P STREET, NW, AS A CHARTER SCHOOL FOR 150 STUDENTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 16 AND 24 YEARS, AND AS A RESIDENTIAL FACILITY FOR 50 HOMELESS STUDENTS.**

WHEREAS, the Bates Area Civic Association was organized to serve as a conduit for community residents to express their desires to the District of Columbia Government on quality of life issues, including matters of economic development, public safety, transportation, human development, and the like;

WHEREAS, the Bates Area Civic Association has worked hard, long and cooperatively over the years with the District of Columbia Government, through its Office of Planning, Department of Housing and Community Development, and through the Executive Office of the Mayor of District of Columbia, to attract meaningful economic development opportunities to the commercial corridors which frame its boundaries, like North Capitol Street, N.W., Florida Avenue, N.W.; New Jersey Avenue, N.W.; and New York Avenue, N.W.;

WHEREAS, the Bates Area Civic Association has also worked hard, long and cooperatively with North Capitol Main Streets, Inc., the Center City Community Corporation, the former North Capitol Neighborhood Development Corporation, and the former North Capitol Business Association to attract and retain a diverse pool of businesses to the North Capitol Street, between Florida and New York Avenues, N.W.;

WHEREAS, the major impediment to the success of the Bates Area Civic Association's longstanding efforts to attract and retain quality businesses on the North Capitol Street, N.W. corridor has involved the saturation of social services programs in our area that presently exist to provide food, medical, drug treatment, and related services to an estimated 8,000 homeless and other indigent persons throughout the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, a recent study conducted by the Urban Land Institute confirmed the decades-long experience of the Bates Area Civic Association that the area's potential to attract and retain business development on the North Capitol Street corridor, between New York and Florida Avenues, N.W. is currently, and will continue to be, severely limited by the saturation of social service programs on and around the corridor;

WHEREAS, the future use of the former John F. Cook Elementary School building (much like the former John Mercer Langston Elementary School building and the former Margaret M. Washington Career High School building) is viewed by the BACA as pivotal to the economic development and growth of the North Capitol Street, N.W. corridor, between New York and Florida Avenues, N.W.;

WHEREAS, the Bates Area Civic Association has developed a Community Visioning Profile for the future use of the John F. Cook Elementary School building and has repeatedly shared its vision with

the DC Office of Planning and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development since the time of its closing as an active elementary school;

WHEREAS, the future use of the John F. Cook Elementary School building as currently proposed by the Latin American Youth Center is inconsistent and in conflict with the BACA's vision for the development of this major community asset;

WHEREAS, the future use of the John F. Cook Elementary School building as currently proposed by the Latin American Youth Center will have an adverse impact upon the surrounding community in a number of areas, including parking, traffic, and transportation as well as upon our possibilities for badly wanted and needed economic development possibilities for the North Capitol Street corridor; and,

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Government did not extend the Bates Area Civic Association the basic courtesy of seeking its input with regard to the decision-making process that resulted in the award of the control of the subject site to the Latin American Youth Center;

WHEREAS, hundreds of persons have reportedly signed a petition to oppose the future use of the former John F. Cook Elementary School building that the Latin American Youth Center proposes; and,

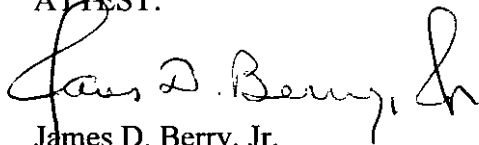
WHEREAS, resolutions are being adopted by the civic and community groups indigenous to the area surrounding the former John F. Cook Elementary School building which clearly express the community's opposition to the building use that the Latin American Youth Center proposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BATES AREA CIVIC ASSOCIATION respectfully requests that the Mayor of the District of Columbia take the measures that are necessary to rescind the award of site control to the Latin American Youth Center to develop the former John F. Cook Elementary School building into an additional education campus to host its YouthBuilding Charter School and residential housing program;

FURTHER, THE BATES AREA CIVIC ASSOCIATION respectfully requests that the Mayor of the District of Columbia, through his Office of Planning and Office of Property Management, lend assistance to the Latin American Youth Center in identifying and securing another location within the District of Columbia that would be more suitable and appropriate for the placement and operations of its YouthBuild Charter School and proposed residential housing program.

This resolution was approved at the regular monthly meeting of the Bates Area Civic Association, Inc. on Monday, October 5, 2009, at Mount Sinai Baptist Church, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Q Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001.

ATTEST:



James D. Berry, Jr.  
President