

Open Work Session

Letter of Support for Parents' Place of Maryland

July 6, 2021

Mrs. Acle said Parents' Place of Maryland's mission is to empower families as advocates and partners in improving education and health outcomes for children with disabilities and special healthcare needs. She said they are seeking a letter of support for a grant that focuses on engaging families specifically in the rural areas of Wicomico County in their children's education, mental health, and future economic needs. She said they propose to do this in Wicomico County by providing parents and children with one-on-one training and virtually, and they also do it in groups in some areas.

Mr. Dodd said there has been a request for a letter of support for this organization. He then asked how this Body feels about that.

Mr. Davis asked where this organization is from, to which Mrs. Acle responded, their office is in Baltimore County. Mr. Davis asked how that benefits Wicomico County, to which Mrs. Acle responded, they have satellite offices throughout the State. Mr. Davis asked, again, how does this benefit Wicomico County students, to which Mrs. Acle responded, because there are satellite offices here in Wicomico County that will be focusing on Wicomico County.

Mr. Dodd asked where their satellite office is, to which Mrs. Acle responded, she is not really sure and she will have to ask them, but she thinks it is somewhere in the City.

Mr. Davis asked if this organization is involved in their public school system at this time, to which Mrs. Acle responded, no. Mr. Davis asked, how are kids in Wicomico County Schools going to get involved to take part in this when this program is on the Western Shore, to which Mrs. Acle responded, the program is not on the Western Shore, it is in Wicomico County. Mr. Davis said the Council is going to support a program that is not even in their County, to which Mrs. Acle responded, the program is in Wicomico County. Mr. Davis clarified, the place is in Glen Burnie, to which Mrs. Acle responded, but they have staff in Wicomico County who are going to do the program. Mr. Davis said Mrs. Acle does not even know where the place is. Mrs. Acle asked if Mr. Davis wants the address, to which Mr. Davis responded, it would be nice to know.

Mr. Davis said they have never heard of this place, so are they are going give them a letter of endorsement for something they have never heard of that is based in Glen Burnie, Maryland? Mr. Holloway said the address is right there on the letter, to which Mr. Davis responded, yes, and it says Glen Burnie, Maryland, which is not Wicomico County.

Mrs. Acle said the way they have the grant written is specifically to serve Wicomico County, to which Mr. Cannon responded, if that is the case, he would like to see that before he makes a decision on this.

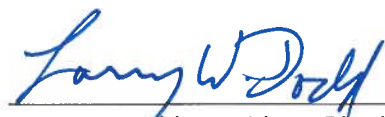
Mr. Dodd asked if there is a deadline for this letter, to which Mr. Hastings responded, it looks like it is ten days from now. Mrs. Acle said she thinks the City is writing a letter for them anyway, so it is fine.

Mr. McCain suggested Mrs. Acle write a letter herself, to which Mrs. Acle responded, yes, she could write one herself. Mr. Dodd asked if Mrs. Acle is okay with that, to which Mrs. Acle responded, she is completely fine with that. Mr. Hastings said he has written letters himself in the past for good projects.

Mr. Hastings said there is a correction that needs to be made in the letter, which is that it is the Rural Maryland Council, not Maryland Rural Council, and the letter should be more specific and spell out the grant.

Mr. Cannon said, with no disrespect intended, he believes the letter should specifically say that it is Mrs. Acle's personal interest that this move forward because he thinks letters have gone out before where someone misinterprets it and thinks it is the Council as a Body.

There was no further discussion.



Larry W. Dodd, President, District 3



Joe Holloway, Vice President, District 5



John T. Cannon, At-Large



William R. McCain, At-Large



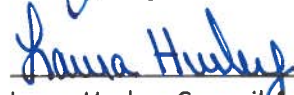
Ernest F. Davis, District 1



Nicole Acle, District 2



Josh Hastings, District 4



Laura Hurley, Council Administrator