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Urban League of Madison

September 11, 2017

Honorable Paul Soglin
Mayor's Office
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Room 403
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Quarterly Report on My Brother's Keeper-Madison

Dear Mayor Soglin:

Enclosed please find the quarterly report for September 2017 for the activities of the Urban League of Greater Madison with regard to the My Brother's Keeper-Madison initiative.

The Urban League and our consultant have made significant strides towards devising initial strategies and working with the City of Madison Mayor's Office and community partners to develop strategies in the implementation of the My Brother's Keeper plan.

Through conversations with community schools and community based organizations, as well as members of your senior staff, a framework has emerged for a comprehensive, inclusive and strategic approach for improving outcomes for the youth in the Greater Madison area.

We look forward to continuing to collaborate with those in our community who are dedicated to ensuring that all boys and young men of color graduate from high school, are safe from violent crime, and receive second chances so they can be good parents and future contributors to our community, state and nation.

Sincerely,

Ruben Anthony Jr., Ph.D
President and Chief Executive Officer
Urban League of Greater Madison



MBK-Madison Quarterly Report (September 2017)

The Urban League of Greater Madison contracted with the City of Madison to develop a plan that manages and implements the Madison, Wisconsin My Brother's Keeper (hereinafter "MBK") challenge as identified by the My Brother's Keeper Madison Team. The MBK Madison Team identified two goals:

- 1) ensuring all boys and young men of color graduate from high school; and
- 2) ensuring all boys and young men of color are safe from violent crime and receive second chances.

The main strategies in addressing the respective goals are community schools and restorative justice. In achieving the goals, this work cannot be done in a vacuum, because the entire community must be involved and own the plan in order to accomplish its goals and have a sustainable community. Working collaboratively with community organizations will do this. The overarching strategy of the project is to construct a comprehensive blueprint for allocating efforts and resources to create policies, practices, and programs designed to improve the life chances for boys and young men of color in the Greater Madison area. The plan will align resources, leverage additional commitments, encourage investment, and nurture partnerships to help the community reach and sustain My Brother's Keeper goals.

Since our last quarterly update activities have been on the increase. School has started for the fall semester and the community schools have reactivated their committees.

The Community Schools (Leopold and Mendota Elementary Schools) re-engaged with their respective committees and volunteers during the months August and September.

- Leopold Community School will hold its first regular committee meeting of the new school year on Tuesday, September 12, 2017.
- Working with Leopold Community School Coordinator Samantha Clausen-Ruppert to set up a presentation by Ron Johnson about the Restorative Justice Court, during a Tuesday Open School House Night, or work with the school Joining Forces Families/Neighborhood Resource Team meeting coordinators. The Joining Forces Families/Neighborhood Resource Team holds regular meetings with social service providers, for example: MPD; Fitchburg PD; City of Madison department reps; apartment managers; and others who meet to discuss needs and opportunities for the community, and have hosted guest speakers in the past.
- Leopold Community School priorities were: 1) opportunities for people of color and diverse backgrounds to be in positions of power within school; 2) academic support for students of color; and 3) after school programming.

- The three priorities during the 2016-2017 school year for Mendota Community School were: 1) support for homeless and mobile families; 2) before school childcare and longer after school hours; and 3) employment and training.

Restorative Justice

- Worked with Ron Johnson to strategize on methods and processes of getting more men and people of color involved in the Community Circles. Some community-based organizations be explored include: United Way; YWCA; NAACP; faith based programs-churches; Dane County Department of Social Services; attorneys; police department; fraternities; sororities; and MMSD.
- Developing a format for informing the public of the program and why it is important to have their involvement and using the community schools to host an event for the restorative justice team. Have Spanish, English and Hmong presenters.
- Working with Leopold Community School Coordinator Samantha Clausen-Ruppert to set up a presentation by Ron Johnson about the Restorative Justice Court during a Tuesday Open School House Night, or work with the school Joining Forces Families/Neighborhood Resource Team meeting coordinators. The Joining Forces Families/Neighborhood Resource Team holds regular meetings with social service providers, for example: MPD; Fitchburg PD; City of Madison department reps; apartment managers; and others who meet to discuss needs and opportunities for the community, and have hosted guest speakers in the past.

MBK/Project SOAR increased its activities in August.

- Continued drilling down to middle school students with its program and services.
- Still exploring whether Schools of Hope and/or Century 21 Programs can assist in this effort. Review the pros and cons as well as potential financial impact on existing programs.
- Continue the involvement with high school students during the 2017-2018 school year. West High School Student Engagement is scheduled to start on Wednesday, October 4, 2017, from 11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
- Identify more CBOs and stakeholders who are not at the table and develop strategies to get them involved.

MBK- Computer Coding and Video Gaming Schools Competition Concept

- Video gaming and computer coding competition for middle and high school students during the 2017-2018 school Spring Break.
- Would involve some 200 middle and high school youth, and perhaps an invitation to young adults who are 27 years old or younger.

After lengthy research and talking with various individuals with expertise in the area, there are general acceptable positives for video gaming and computer coding.

- 72% all teens play video game (Pew Research Center)
- Video gaming requires: Skills and strategy development and execution of a plan
- Video games can improve hand-eye coordination, problem-solving skills, and the mind's ability to process information
- Regular video game play can increase your child's dexterity, which is very useful for performing day-to-day activities, work functions and playing sports. There are numerous exercises that can be performed to improve your child's hand-eye coordination, but most of them aren't as appealing and rewarding to your child as playing a video game.
- Gives users a chance to enhance cognitive skills as problem solving, reasoning, and decision making
- Provides an outlet for reducing individual stress for the user and provides enjoyment.
 - Played individually or as a team.
 - Employment opportunities.
 - The natural transition of gamers would be how video games are designed.
 - Met with the Madison Public Library Director Gregory Mickells and Media Lab Coordinator Trent Miller to discuss possible collaboration on the video gaming and computer coding project as well as what that process would look like.
 - There would be stations for computer coding, which is a set of instructions that computers understand, which are present in everyday tools like phones, cars, microwaves, and smart devices
 - Several areas were identified from the Madison Public Library meeting, which requires some revisiting.

I AM MBK DATA COLLECTION hosted by Mynd Match, Inc. a progressive company in the Ed-Tech Ecosystem designed to drive engagement, retention, and outcomes that cultivate learner success in a knowledge-based economy.

- Re-engaged with the developer of I AM BMK as a data collection source on the status and development and outcomes
- Input professional profile of key players of the MBK-Madison Alliance.
- Virtual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13, 2017.
- Work with developer to do a test run of the data inputted.

