

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT YBPCS AND LAYC REDEVELOPMENT OF THE
VACANT J. F. COOK SCHOOL

Submitted to the Ward 5 Democrats

November 22, 2010

WHEREAS, the District has 1,400 homeless youth and only about 100 beds exist to shelter them specifically, and adult shelters are often not appropriate settings for meeting their needs.

WHEREAS, redevelopment of the J. F. Cook School in Ward 5 by Youth Build Public Charter School and Latin American Youth Center will directly address the challenges faced by low-income youth who are disconnected from school/employment and/or are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

WHEREAS, LAYC has received local, regional and national recognition for having served disadvantaged youth for over 40 years, YBPCS has been working for almost 15 years and both have been strong stakeholders and advocates in their existing neighborhood for safety, positive youth development and community collaboration.

WHEREAS, the Cook School is currently vacant and blighted, and YBPCS and LAYC have proposed to redevelop the property, creating an attractive, environmentally-friendly, mixed-use property that will provide affordable housing, educational opportunities, job training and community meeting spaces all under one roof.

WHEREAS, the Cook School will serve 150 young adults, aged 16-24, who have not found success in traditional public schools, and provide them with GED preparation, job-readiness support, vocational training, internship placement, and community service engagement.

WHEREAS, the Cook School Campus will also provide affordable housing for 50 young adults, aged 18 - 24, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, and also provide the services needed to support their transition to successful adulthood.

WHEREAS, the District awarded the property to YBPCS based on their response to a competitive RFP, and a resolution to dispose of the property to YBPCS is pending with the District Council.

WHEREAS YBPCS and LAYC serve youth from every ward of the District of Columbia. At their current site in Ward 1, they pull about 40% of students from Ward 1, and expect to pull at least 40% of The Cook School's students from Ward 5.

Therefore LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Ward 5 Democrats stands in strong support of the proposed redevelopment of the Cook School in Ward 5 by YouthBuild Public Charter School and Latin American Youth Center.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ward 5 Democrats supports DC Council introduced legislation to grant YBPCS a long-term lease to provide education, training, affordable housing and community space on the Cook School site.