



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

David Grosso
Councilmember At-Large
Chairperson, Committee on Education

Committee Member
Government Operations
Health
Human Services
Labor and Workforce Development

June 5, 2019

Scott Pearson, Executive Director
Public Charter School Board
3333 14th St NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20010

Charles Moore, Chair
Monument Academy PCS
500 19th St NE
Washington, DC 20002

Deputy Mayor for Education Paul Kihn
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 307
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Pearson, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Kihn:

Like many residents across the District of Columbia, I was shocked to learn that there has been more than 1,800 safety incidents reported at Monument Academy Public Charter School and even more stunned to learn that the Board of Directors, in a closed meeting, voted to close the school at the end of this school year. I am deeply disappointed that Monument did not provide our students with a safe environment and remain concerned about the future of the students currently enrolled at Monument Academy Public Charter School. I am also disappointed that despite assurances from the Public Charter School Board, the meeting last night to close the school was not open to the public.

Unlike other public charter schools, Monument Academy is a weekday boarding middle school for students. It provides education to some of our most vulnerable students. The student population is comprised of 77.4% at-risk, 57% with special needs, 60% economically disadvantaged. Because many of these students were pushed out of their previous school, and a significant portion of the student population is housing unstable, it is imperative that our city create an individualized and deliberate approach to placing these students at other schools this fall so that every student is in the best position to succeed.

Please provide me with a plan for every student currently enrolled to attend Monument Academy next school year including where they will be housed if applicable. Submit your response to me no later than close of business on Friday, June 28, 2019. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jess Giles, my Deputy Committee Director, at jjgiles@dccouncil.us.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Grosso", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Grosso
Council of the District of Columbia (At-Large)
Chairperson, Committee on Education

Cc: Chairperson Phil Mendelson
Members of the Committee on Education