

From: [Don Kraher](#)
To: [Jewel Cannada-Wynn](#); [Jared Moore](#); [P.C. Wu](#); [Sherri Myers](#); [Andy Terhaar](#); [Ann Hill](#); [John Jerralds](#)
Cc: [Elaine Mager](#); [Sonja Gaines](#); [Ericka Burnett](#); [Robyn Tice](#); [Susan Woolf](#); [Keith Wilkins](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Malcomb Yonge Gym
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 1:36:31 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY ALL

Council President and Members of City Council

Please see the information below as provided by Councilwoman Hill. A hard copy will be at your place for those attending in person.

Respectfully,

Don Kraher
Council Executive
Office of the City Council
222 W. Main Street
Pensacola, FL 32502
(850) 435-1686 – Office
(850) 384-6363 – Cell



City of Pensacola

From: Ann Hill <AHill@cityofpensacola.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 1:30 PM
To: Don Kraher <DKraher@cityofpensacola.com>
Cc: Keith Wilkins <KWilkins@cityofpensacola.com>; Grover C. Robinson, IV <GRobinson@cityofpensacola.com>; Brian Cooper <bcooper@cityofpensacola.com>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Malcomb Yonge Gym

Please share this with the council members for tonight's meeting - hard copy would be great.

Thanks

Ann

From: joanna johannes <dr.joannajohannes@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 12:16 PM

To: Ann Hill <AHill@cityofpensacola.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Malcomb Yonge Gym

THIS EMAIL IS FROM AN EXTERNAL EMAIL ACCOUNT

Dear Councilman Hill,

My name is Joanna Johannes and I really need your help. I am the founder of Lighthouse Academy. Lighthouse is a 501c3 Not-For-Profit Organization that provides high quality education to low income students. In 2005, I opened my first Lighthouse campus in Gulf Breeze, Florida. In 2011, I expanded into Escambia county. We immediately filled Gadsden Street United Methodist Church on opening day with over 200 k-8th low income and special needs students. In 2013, I opened a high school across the street from the Church at 625 N 9th Avenue. We immediately filled that campus with over 100 9th-12th students low income and special needs students.

Lighthouse has had a major positive impact on the lives of the children of Escambia County. This success has been attributed to our highly educated teachers and our belief in providing students with grace along with fair, positive discipline. To help expand our mission, since 2011, we have used the Malcomb Yonge GYM every day of the week from 11am-5pm. It has been utilized for Physical Education and our training grounds for our national champion basketball team. Malcomb Yonge GYM is located directly across from our k-8th campus and is the primary reason why I purchased the high school located on 9th Avenue.

The Lighthouse Escambia campuses are for low income and special needs students only. This vulnerable population depends on this Gym for their way of staying in school and off the sometimes troublesome streets of Pensacola. Lighthouse has provided more College athletic scholarships after graduation than any other private school in the area, and possible more than the public schools. Losing our access to Malcom Yonge Gym would be devastating to our program.

I am respectfully requesting that you please allow Lighthouse to engage in a private-public partnership with the City of Pensacola. I have offered to pay for the repairs and improvements of the Gym in exchange for a long term lease with the first right to purchase. We are highly vested in Malcomb Yonge Gym and now have over 400 families that are willing to sign a petition in support of Lighthouse usage. Our parents and faculty painted the outside of the Gym, spent countless hours cleaning walls and bathrooms each day, as well as kept the outside up to par. We have invested in internet, a camera security system, and would be pleased to fix the roof and replace the floor if we could enter into a long term partnership with the City. If this is not an option, we would at least like to engage in a direct negotiation based on our 10 year vested interest in Malcomb Yonge and our very positive relationship.

Last year, we graduated "Downtown" Eddie Brown. Our coach, Morris Jones, led Eddie to become the best guard in the state and the 3rd best guard in the nation. In addition, we have 5 students that have come to Lighthouse specifically to play basketball with us through their entire high school career. Without a Gym for daily practice, these students from Sudan, Gambia, and Madagascar, will not have a home GYM and may have to be replaced with another school or go back to their county.

We also have a family member in Detroit, Michigan that sends us basketball players that need a new start in life. They are with host families and highly depend on the GYM as their avenue to getting college scholarships. As a former President of the Navarre Rotary, I believe in International and domestic engagement of students in need. I am saddened when I was told about the surplus decision by the pastor of the Gadsden Street United Methodist Church last week. She had received a notice in the mail. Please help me if you are able as this issue is on the agenda for today's meeting.

With sincere appreciation for any help that you may provide,
Joanna Johannes- (PhD-Educational Leadership, higher education; MBA; BA-Finance)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10