

January 20th, 2009

District Justice Opiela
439 Perry Highway
Pittsburgh, PA 15229

Dear Magistrate Opiela:

I wanted to take this time to thank you for all you've done for the students, parents and schools of this community. Your commitment and concern for the people you serve was evident from the start. Your guidance and direction has been instrumental in helping our young people learn from their mistakes, become healthy citizens, and salvage their futures. Under your jurisdiction, I have seen students make dramatic changes in extremely short periods of time. You have been tremendously successful in serving this community as its Magistrate and you need to know how appreciated your efforts are.

You are one of those special people who understand that compassion and accountability are not mutually exclusive. That, sometimes the most caring thing a person can do is to force them into a position to change. You have a true gift in how you balance the best interest of the student, the school and the community.

Lastly, I wanted you to know that your support for our safety grant resulted in the District being awarded \$21,057 to make our schools safer. This is just one additional example of your contribution to the safety and welfare of this school community. Thank you again for all that you have done.

Sincerely,

Tim McDowell, LSW, HSV
Social Worker
North Hills School District