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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4329

November 19, 2010

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DEMOCRATIC AT-LARGE WHIP

Beverly Smith
Senior Program Director
NFL Grassroots Program
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
501 Seventh Avenue - 7th Floor
New York, NY 10018

Dear Ms. Smith:

Our office would like to offer our support for Jefferson Davis High School and their application for a \$50,000 fund-matching grant through the 2010 NFL Grassroots Program. Jeff Davis is requesting the NFL grant to install lights on the field, purchase bleachers and a score board, and expand the sprinkler system. Jefferson Davis has the only football field in the surrounding area and plays a pivotal role for both the students and area residents as a resource for athletic and community involvement.

After the field's last improvement in the early 1990s, both student involvement in athletics and the student retention rate at Jefferson Davis High School rose dramatically. With a large percentage of at-risk students, improving the conditions of the field that inhibit the extent of its use will be beneficial to the students and community. Currently, the football and soccer teams share the same field but due to the lack of lighting on the field, practice times are cut short and games are begun early because it is too dark otherwise. The lights will increase safety and usage of the field to allow more access for Jeff Davis teams, members of the community who walk around the track, and community leagues that play games there.

The addition of bleachers at Jefferson Davis' field would also increase community involvement since students, parents, and residents who attend the games do not have anywhere to sit and so attendance at games is limited to those that stand or sit on the grass surrounding the field. Installing a scoreboard would also enhance use of the field for student athletics and community leagues. With an expanded sprinkler system, the quality of the field would improve its use as well.

As a former alum and football player at Jefferson Davis, I experienced the facilities and the thrill of the games first-hand. The enhancements that Jefferson Davis is requesting would be

a significant improvement to its field and would make a big difference for the students and the community.

We appreciate your consideration of Jefferson Davis High School for the 2010 NFL Grassroots Program. Please keep our office informed as their request moves through the application process. Please do not hesitate to contact Veronica Custer in our North district office at 281-999-5879 if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Gene Green
Member of Congress

GG:vc