

Exhibit 7



MAIN CAMPUS:
1045 SUNSET BOULEVARD
WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29169
803-796-7525
REVEREND DR. CHARLES B. JACKSON, SR.
Senior Pastor

NORTHEAST CAMPUS:
1203 SUMMIT PARKWAY
COLUMBIA, SC 29229
803-753-0610
REVEREND DR. CHRIS LEEVY JOHNSON
Campus Pastor

**THE CHURCH THAT GLORIFIES
GOD AND EDIFIES HUMANITY**

June 30, 2021

The Honorable J. Mark Hayes, II
180 Magnolia Street
Spartanburg, SC29306

Dear Honorable Judge Hayes, II:

I am encouraged to submit this letter on behalf of Mr. Kevin Marsh, a dear friend and strong supporter of the community initiatives of the Brookland Baptist Church. I have been serving as pastor of Brookland in West Columbia, South Carolina for fifty years. There is no one who has shown the gracious and generous spirit in support of an underserved neighborhood as Mr. Marsh. Since having come to know him in 2013, he has honored every commitment he has made to serve our community.

In 2008 Brookland Baptist bought the former Lakeview School which was closed in 1968 due to integration. The school was renovated in 1969 and named Northside Middle School. After Northside Middle School relocated, Lexington School District Two was about to demolish the school, so the church bought it and began to convert it into the Brookland-Lakeview Empowerment Center (BLEC). Renovating and converting an eighty-four thousand square foot facility dating back to the late 1940s has been the most difficult challenge we have had in ministry. I became very disheartened and began to feel I may have made a mistake in buying the former school where I had attended from the first to the tenth grades. However, I continued to pray. Mr. Marsh learned of our passion to transform a neighborhood. He gave me an opportunity to share our vision to give hope and a future to many who for so long had been overlooked, neglected and marginalized. We took him on a tour of the building and shared our plans to establish a Senior Citizen Center for many who were sitting around on porches and under trees with nothing to do as if waiting on death. God touched the heart of Mr. Marsh to renovate the school's cafeteria and kitchen. In 2013 he arranged for an in-kind contribution to complete the kitchen which has enabled us to provide weekly meals for senior citizens, host wedding receptions and family reunions, serve dinners for bereaved families following the funeral and prepare meals for various events and activities at the BLEC. It is the focal point of the Empowerment Center. If it were not for Mr. Marsh, we would not have been able to serve the needs of the neighborhood. Since then, the Empowerment Center has developed a number of successful initiatives for over one hundred fifty youth and teens in our Academic/Athletic Program. On December 13, 2020 the Empowerment Center became a Historic State Marker. Mr. Marsh was a prayer answered.

In addition to the in-kind contribution to renovate the BLEC kitchen, he has continued to make annual personal donations to insure our success. His heart of compassion has been a tremendous motivation and inspiration to our community. We have been most appreciative of his integrity and faithful honor of his word. He is greatly loved and deeply respected by the Greater Lakeview Community in Lexington County.

If you would like to speak with me further regarding what I have said, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at [REDACTED] or emailed at [REDACTED]. Thanks for receiving my statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Reverend Dr. Charles B. Jackson, Sr.