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**To:** "hrraftovich@annapolis.gov" <hrraftovich@annapolis.gov>  
**CC:** Sheryl Menendez <smenendez@lotwfamily.com>  
**Date:** 12/13/2013 12:43 PM  
**Subject:** Education Commission City of Annapolis

The following is a email is being submitted to express my sincere desire to serve on the Education Commission for the City of Annapolis .

My name is Sheryl Menendez,

I am a 30 year resident of the City of Annapolis, and have provided model Mentoring and Educational programs to the students of the City of Annapolis for 15 years. Our organization Restoration Community Development Corp. housed in Annapolis, also has a Memorandum of Understanding with Anne Arundel County Public schools, that allows our organization, space and access to students and faculty, on the campuses of Annapolis and Bates Middle Schools each day. In addition, RCDC, was one of five Community organizations offered it's on Community office with private access and space on the new campus of Annapolis Phoenix Center School. We are currently working to open a mentoring program on the campus of Phoenix Center. All of our Mentoring/Educational programs are provided on school campuses daily.

RCDC has a long history, has been, and is recognized through Annapolis City government for its quality educational programming. As a partner, with the Governors office for Children, we are provided Evidence-based Practices to utilize, with measurable results and tracking students.

Restoration Community Development Corp., is the longest running on campus Community, based school programming organization in the city of Annapolis. These programs are Y.E.S. (YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SERVICE ) males ages 11-17, as well as, GEMS AND JEWELS MENTORING, Ages 11-14 in our Annapolis City and county school systems. In addition, we were asked by the county five years ago to start programming for the Odenton and Meade areas. We currently have on campus Y.E.S. sites implemented on the campuses for Meade Middle and Sr. High Schools.

Since our existence, have graduated several hundred students, thru our tenure with the city from our programs. Many of which have and our now attending College.

As Executive Director of RCDC, I was one of three persons selected from the City of Annapolis, to attend the Masters Institute in Arizona, to return and implement the KIDS AT HOPE PHILOSOPHY, in our City and County. This philosophy embraces, and supports the ideology and concept that, " ALL CHILDREN ARE CAPABLE OF SUCCESS, NO EXCEPTIONS" !

With and thru the assistance of the ADAA, and Anne Arundel County Bureau of Behavioral Health, RCDC, was selected and has opened, the First Adolescent Recovery, Clubhouse in the history of the City of Annapolis. The Clubhouse operates in a site provided thru a partnership with the city Housing Authority, for ages 12-18. This much needed, venture was supported by the City of Annapolis . The 21401 zip codes and Brooklyn Park, were identified as having the highest number of children with Mental health and ( Co-occurring) alcohol/substance use in the county, according to the state ADAA research. This is a non-clinical Clubhouse, provides, an environment of nurturing for

Education, Group Sessions, Individual Services, Workforce Development, Healthy Decision Making, Peer Support Services, Employability Skills, Art and Parental Supportive services. Our students are working on developing Musical presentation concerning their journey, to redirect behaviors, while building resiliency skills. We have engaged a Recording studio and Producer for this process.

Along with our Partnerships with the Anne Arundel County schools we partner with the State and Local Health Departments, Board Member of Mental Health, Eight years, A.A. County Partnership for Children Youth & Families Fourteen years, DJS, DSS, City of Annapolis CDBG, HACA, County Executive office, Healthy Anne Arundel, AAMC, AACC, and others.

RCDC, serves as a Service Learning site for Anne Arundel Community College, where I also had the opportunity to attend for Behavioral Counseling.

I am able to bring to the table, along with my background, a wealth of knowledge experience, and a reputation for excellence in this city school system.

Known as a respected leader, and Champion for Children and Families, in the Annapolis Community, I work alongside of my husband Pastor Frank Menendez.

I am appointed to serve as the Community Outreach and Administrative Pastor of Light of the World Family Ministries, located here, in Annapolis, the city where we both reside and work untiringly.

I am passionate about our youth in all communities. As a mother of children who graduated from Annapolis schools, and have successful careers one of which who serves in the United States Military, I now have grandchildren who are attending Annapolis City schools. I have a vested interest in the Educational success for all students in this city.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Menendez, RCDC  
Executive Director & State of Maryland  
DHMH MOTA ( Minority Outreach & Technical Assistance)  
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