

December 15th, 2021

Renee Jadusingh Esq.
Community Redevelopment Agency
20 N. Swinton Ave
Delray Beach, FL 33444

Dear Chairman,

I, Emanuel "Dupree" Jackson Jr., the founding director of the Emanuel Jackson Sr Project Inc (EJS Project), am writing to propose a lease renewal of our existing space at 700 West Atlantic Avenue. Even more so, I am asking that the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) consider partnering with the EJS Project in an official capacity for a future endeavor. Four years ago, the CRA board accepted my proposal for office space based on the vision I had for EJS and the support of our community. As I type today, that vision has become reality; we have impacted thousands of lives in a positive way since moving into our space in 2018. While providing these vital services to teens and residents in The Set, we have also grown our network of funders and partnering agencies, increasing our capacity to serve. All of this would not have been possible without the vote for us to obtain the space we currently occupy, which we so very much appreciate.

This is why I feel that our best chance of securing a more permanent home in the future is to work out a mutually beneficial agreement with the CRA. You gave us a chance when this was just a dream. We have now proven that we can deliver and have successfully carved a niche for providing exceptional services to a demographic that has been historically underserved.

It is my hope that we can begin the conversation of partnering soon. In the meantime I would like to request that you consider our proposal for renewal. We entered our lease four years ago with the expectation of being the last tenants to occupy a space that was scheduled for demolition to make way for a new project. At this time, the building which we currently occupy is expected to be around for the foreseeable future. We are asking that you renew our lease for an additional two years, expiring January 31st, 2024.

Our organization has a plan to secure a permanent location. We are interested in obtaining land located within the CRA district in Delray Beach Florida. We hope to negotiate with the CRA to

either acquire the land for free or at a discounted cost. It is our intention to build our new and permanent EJS Project Community Center here that will be a beacon in our community. We are hopeful there will be a way to successfully work with the CRA as this process develops. In this building, we will continue to build and empower tomorrow's leaders for generations to come while serving and improving our community.

We thank the CRA staff for being professional and supportive property managers over the past four years. I have attached numerous letters of support from some of the county's largest and most well recognized funders and organizations. They all believe in the work that we are doing through EJS Project's mission and have invested in us. We humbly ask that you respond favorably to our request so that we can continue to build and empower tomorrow's leaders in Delray Beach now and into the future.

Emanuel Dupree Jackson Jr

Emanuel Jackson Jr.


Executive Director