



December 14, 2021

Board of Commissioners
Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency
20 North Swinton Avenue
Delray Beach, FL 33444

Dear Board of Commissioners,

Please accept this as Achievement Centers for Children & Families letter of support for Emanuel “Dupree” Jackson and EJS Project’s lease extension to use space at 700 West Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach.

I last submitted a letter of support in 2017 when Dupree appeared before the board for consideration of his initial application. At that time, we endorsed his skills and passion for engaging youth. Our letter supported Dupree’s perspective and dedication to strengthening the community he where he grew up, lives, and works. We also shared his qualifications and roles held with organizations similar to ours and initiatives, such as Healthier Delray, that helped prepare him for success in running a non-profit organization.

Much has changed since 2017, and we now write to support a continuation of a valuable resource for our community. Through the CRA’s support of a lease/donation on Atlantic Avenue, EJP Project has had a home base from which they have impacted countless youth and families. During COVID, EJS Project coordinated and distributed community resources, food, and supplies to Delray Beach residents. Dupree and EJS Project continue to be relied upon by community groups, residents, and teens. Most importantly, EJS Project has held safe space for teens during a time where the nation has been cautioned about a looming mental health crisis for youth both generationally and as a result of the pandemic.

The Achievement Centers and EJS continue to work together and share resources to better our community, and we look forward to our continued partnership. We hope that careful consideration is given, along with a lease extension, for EJS Project’s continued use of space on Atlantic Avenue in Delray Beach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Seibel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Stephanie Seibel
CEO



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Environment, and General Government
Education
Ethics and Elections
Finance and Tax
Transportation

SENATOR LORI BERMAN

31st District

December 14, 2021

Re: EJS Project, Delray Beach, Florida

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to express my profound support for the EJS Project to remain a safe space for teens located along the Atlantic Avenue corridor in Delray Beach. The impact the EJS Project and Emmanuel Jackson, Jr. have had on The Set in Delray Beach is irreplaceable. It is critical that this organization and the youth it serves not be disrupted by the painstaking process of relocation.

Under Mr. Jackson's leadership, the EJS Project has focused on empowering teens to be leaders in their communities with integrity and self-accountability. Through city and county-wide civic engagement exercises, the EJS Project has inspired our youth to be a voice at the table during decision-making processes, and to ensure racial equity is a central component. To cultivate a strong sense of community, the EJS Project has empowered students to brainstorm, organize, and manage community events. Simply put, Mr. Jackson and the EJS Project are investing in the growth and potential of at-risk children – a service that is paramount, particularly as youth experience mental health challenges in the age of COVID-19.

For two consecutive years, I have sponsored the EJS Project's state funding request of \$155,000 that would expand their operations and provide free, quality services and programming to their students. In my discussions with budget chairs and fellow lawmakers, the work of the EJS Project impressed upon them the need for this expansion, and I am hopeful we will secure the funding. I am also trusting that the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency will see the value Mr. Jackson and his organization bring to Atlantic Avenue.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lori Berman", followed by a horizontal line.

Lori Berman
State Senator, District 31

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 2300 High Ridge Road, Suite 161, Boynton Beach, Florida 33426 (561) 292-6014 FAX: (888) 284-6491
- ☐ 218 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5031

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

WILTON SIMPSON
President of the Senate

AARON BEAN
President Pro Tempore

December 15, 2021

Re: EJS Project, Delray Beach, Florida

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of support from Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County for Emanuel "Dupree" Jackson and EJS Project to remain a beacon of hope and symbol of African American pride and achievement along the Atlantic Avenue corridor in Delray Beach.

Mr. Jackson stands out in Delray Beach as someone who dedicates every day to strengthening the community he grew up in, lives and works in: The Set. As the founder of his own non-profit organization, EJS Project – and through his ongoing partnerships with local officials, initiatives such as Healthier Delray Beach, organizations like the Achievement Centers for Children and Families, and other non-profits like Digital Vibez, KOP Mentoring, and Community Greening- Mr. Jackson has been instrumental in changing the narrative for countless youth and families.

Mr. Jackson serves as an advocate for adolescents and parents to ensure their collective voices are heard and contributions recognized. As a resident, son, father, husband and mentor, he continues to be a driving force for best practices such as the Racial Equity Institute, Black Lives Matter, Restorative Justice Practices, civic engagement and Asset Based Community Development.

As an awardee of our Great Ideas Initiative Grant, Great Ideas Initiative Capacity Building Pipeline Grant and Vital Conditions Project Grant, Mr. Jackson uses these financial resources to strengthen his organization's operational capacity, build new partnerships and expand services for young people. His leadership development and mentoring work with teenagers through EJS Project has been his life-long dream, a tribute to his father who instilled in him a sense of pride and self-worth.

Children's Services Council believes the City of Delray Beach and, in particular, The Set, has benefited tremendously from the tireless work and dedication of Mr. Jackson and the EJS Project. We hope the EJS Project will remain a prominent Atlantic Avenue icon for many years to come and look forward to working together to ensure our youth grow up healthy, safe and strong.

Sincerely,



Lisa Williams-Taylor, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer



Delray Beach CRA Board

20 N Swinton Ave

Delray Beach, FL 33444

December 13, 2021

Dear CRA Board,

I am writing in strong support of The EJS Project and to urge you to extend your generous partnership with the model mentoring program by providing the critical home for their operations.

Four years ago, you not only invested in the young men and women of Delray Beach when you provided an office space in the 700 block on Atlantic Avenue, but you invested in the nonprofit's emerging leader, Emanuel "Dupree" Jackson, a native Delray Beach resident. You invested in his vision for a better future for the youth he was mentoring and you invested in his aspirations as a leader to help make a difference in his community.

The EJS Project has gained impressive notoriety in a very short period of time. Dupree and his team have been successfully securing grant support and have been recognized for the high quality of mentoring programming offered. In the county's application to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for their *Culture of Health Prize*, which the county won in fall of 2021, Dupree and The EJS Project were heavily featured throughout the application process. Dupree is a member of the planning team which is bringing internationally known Canadian-based Tamarack Institute to Delray Beach for their first US-based learning event in fall 2022. With financial support for travel from Palm Health Foundation and Healthier Delray Beach, it was the Tamarack Institute that helped to shape Dupree's leadership perspective and helped build the foundation from which he works.

Dupree and his team need a permanent place to call home. The partnership with the CRA has been a very strong indication of your support of the mentoring program and the youth of Delray Beach. Please consider extending your generous support by allowing The EJS Project to remain in their current location while they seek alternatives for a longer-term solution.

You would be continuing to invest in Delray's youth AND Dupree and his team.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick McNamara

President/Chief Executive Officer



PULTE FAMILY
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

December 14, 2021

Board of Commissioners
Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency
Delray Beach, FL 33444

Dear Board of Commissioners,

I am writing this letter to express the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation's strong support for the leadership of Emanuel "Dupree" Jackson and the inspirational impact he has had on so many young people in our community through the EJS Project.

For the past two years, the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation has worked closely with Dupree and the EJS Project. Our Foundation seeks to help meet the needs of marginalized people, here in our community, and around the globe. We have seen first-hand how the EJS Project builds up tomorrow's leaders while giving-back and helping to meet the immediate needs of others. Through the EJS Project, many local families have received food, clothing, academic help for their children, and other types of assistance. This has been incredibly impactful over the past two-years as the pandemic gave us new challenges to overcome. Dupree and the EJS project were ready to help the students and their families with whatever obstacles presented themselves while keeping an eye to the future.

As the grant manager for the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation, I have had the opportunity to visit the EJS Project's offices. I have seen how much the participants are excited to be in the space, ready to work on homework, hang out with each other, and talk about their futures. This past June, I was able to celebrate high school graduation with the EJS Project, students, and their families. It was great to see how much the community has supported them and to hear about how they have taken charge of their futures.

For all these reasons, the Pulte Family Charitable Foundation wishes to express their support and gratitude for the EJS Project and all the good work that Dupree and his team have done and will continue to do.

Thank you,

James Conner
Grant Manager



December 14, 2021

Stewardship Council

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Katrina Blackmon
Jacinta Cauffield
Renee Constantino
Shana Dhaity
Michelle Gross
Kim Hammond
John Hulick
Annie Ifill
Kevin Jones
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Randy Scheid
Jill Sorenson
Erica Whitfield

Emanuel "Dupree" Jackson Jr.
Emanuel Jackson Sr. (EJS) Project
700 West Atlantic Avenue
Delray Beach, FL 33444

Dear EJS Project:

BeWellPBC proudly supports your organization, Emanuel Jackson Senior (EJS) Project, in your efforts to "challenge perceptions of the community and its youth by inspiring leadership, equity of opportunity, and supporting stewardship."

For more than 8 years, EJS Project has been a beacon of hope for Delray Beach youth and their families by offering mentorship and supportive services, encouraging civic engagement and academic success, developing opportunity for career paths and entrepreneurial spirit, and honoring the voice of the community in all you do. Throughout the pandemic when the world was forced to shut down at times, EJS Project kept going, providing much needed assistance to residents through your program 'Bout That Action, giving space for neighbors to tell their stories and discuss their needs. As a result, you were the driving force for development of the countywide Rapid Response Team (for service referrals) and Neighbors Helping Neighbors Fund (for basic living support) in partnership with BeWellPBC and Palm Health Foundation to answer resident call for this support.

BeWellPBC, a countywide initiative bringing together Palm Beach County residents, systems and sectors in meaningful ways to address the community's behavioral health collectively, recognizes the importance of the work of EJS Project and the promise your grassroots efforts offer for a better future for people throughout our community. You are a model for the rest of the county how this work can and should be done.

BeWellPBC looks forward to all EJS Project will accomplish for years to come and is here to support your organization as you successfully serve our next generations.

Executive Director

Lauren Zuchman

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lauren Zuchman

Lauren Zuchman, Executive Director for BeWellPBC
lzuchman@bewellpbc.org
561-757-8990

Date: December 15, 2021

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Board of Commissioners
Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency
20 North Swinton Avenue
Delray Beach, FL 33444

Re: Letter of support for Mr. Emanuel "Dupree" Jackson and the EJS Project

Dear Board of Commissioners,

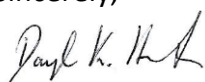
The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, Inc. has a core strategy to support positive youth development programs and is pleased to provide this letter of support for Mr. Emanuel "Dupree" Jackson and the EJS Project.

Mr. Jackson has truly established himself as a pillar in the community. He is a voice for the voiceless and a tremendous role model for the youth that attend his programs. He gives of himself effortlessly to ensure that residents of "The Set" that are in need do not go without.

The Community Foundation understands the critical need for programs and services that help shape and equip our future leaders with the necessary skills to be successful. The EJS Project focuses on enriching and empowering young minds through the strategic lens of life skills, job training, and mentorship. As a product of "The Set" I know first-hand of what early guidance and support can produce.

The Community Foundation has been partnering with local nonprofits organization, in Palm Beach and Martin Counties for 50 years. In efforts to continue on this trajectory to assist in building safe and vibrant communities through our nonprofit partners, the Foundation is pleased to support Mr. Jackson and the EJS Project vision of developing and preparing the youth of Delray Beach with the required skills and knowledge to be tomorrow's leaders.

Sincerely,



Daryl K. Houston,
Interim Vice President for Community Impact

Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency
20 N Swinton Ave
Delray Beach, FL 33444

December 14, 2021

Dear Delray Beach CRA,

I am writing in support of the EJS Project, which is currently negotiating with you to extend their current space at 700 West Atlantic Avenue. As a grantee, EJS has demonstrated to our foundation the profound positive impact they have in the Delray Beach community. As I am sure you are aware, EJS supports youth from Delray Beach, empowering them through programs that help them find their voice as leaders and conscientious community members. By providing teens with opportunities including internships, homework help and civic engagement, EJS brings hope to these teens and their community.

Stability is incredibly important for the youth who participate in EJS programs. The space that EJS currently calls home is more than just 4 walls. It is a known place, where teens feel seen, heard and safe and it significantly contributes to the work EJS staff and teens do every day. I urge you to consider the impact that you can have been granting this extension. Knowing the mission of the Delray Beach Community Redevelopment Agency includes the goal “to eliminate blight, create a sustainable downtown and encourage economic growth” to help revitalize the community, I am certain you can see the value of supporting EJS. The only way to encourage economic growth and create a vibrant community is by ensuring that the least privileged members of that community have access to opportunities and the strength to believe in themselves. By continuing to provide a space of EJS, you are doing just that, strengthening our community for everyone.

Sincerely,

Sara Kimmel

Virginia & Harvey Kimmel
FAMILY FUND