

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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KENNETH "KEN" DUNKIN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
5TH DISTRICT



CHAIRMAN:

- Appropriations-Higher Education
- Tourism and Conventions

COMMITTEES:

- Elementary and Secondary Education
- Financial Institutions
- Insurance
- International Trade and Commerce
- Joint Criminal Justice Reform

Office of Innovation and Incubation, Office of New Schools
Chicago Public Schools
42 W Madison, 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60602

To Whom It May Concern,

New Life Academy; School of Performing Arts will be a greater extension of the commitment to the Grand Crossing community by providing a safe, stimulating and clean environment for its students. New Life Academy will be the ONLY Performing Arts charter school on the south side of Chicago, offering a tuition-free education for 7th and 8th grade (eventually to serve grades 7 through 12). New Life Academy will also be dedicated to academia (Math, Science, Social Science, and English). This endeavor will provide another learning avenue within the community as well as student scholarships.

New Life Covenant's vision is to provide a safe, stimulating, and innovative learning environment where students recognize and achieve their full potential through academia and the performing arts. In conjunction with numerous community partners, they aspire to have rigorous curriculum. This will be an intricate staple to successfully prepare our leaders of tomorrow for the world of higher education and the global workforce, and most importantly, New Life Academy: School of Performing Arts will bring the Grand Community.

As the State Representative, serving the Grand Crossing Community, I support the Implementation of New Life Academy: School of Performing Arts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Dunkin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ken" being more prominent.

Ken Dunkin
State Representative
5th District



MICHELLE A. HARRIS
ALDERMAN-8TH WARD

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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

COMMITTEES, RULES & ETHICS
(CHAIRMAN)

BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS

FINANCE

PUBLIC SAFETY

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND AUDIT

ZONING, LANDMARKS AND
BUILDING STANDARDS

MICHELLE A. HARRIS

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
TELEPHONE 312-744-3075

July 16, 2015

Office of Innovation and Incubation
Office of New Schools-Chicago Public Schools
42 West Madison Street, 3rd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing this letter to express my support for the proposed *New Life Academy School of the Performing Arts*, a new public charter school, to be located within the Grand Crossing community of Chicago. Sponsored by the *New Life Covenant Church*, a legendary community institution - - this new educational facility is designed to be an expansion of the dynamic commitment to the neighborhood, by providing a safe, stimulating, clean and secure environment for its students, while fostering innovation, lifelong learning and neighborhood sustainability.

Chicago is well known for its cultural vibrancy and strong artistic vitality. This includes fostering the development of Chicago's ever-expanding arts sector, and encouraging young people to consider future careers as independent working artists and owners of private and nonprofit arts businesses. The goal of the *New Life Academy School of the Performing Arts* is to help develop future cultural leaders and activists, providing them with a solid academic performing arts-focused curriculum, also emphasizing all-important STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math), as well as the Social Sciences and English. This will serve as a framework to guide the City's future arts-related and economic growth and simultaneously afford our children to successfully compete on a global basis.

Today, the arts are a major economic force across the U.S., as well as in Chicago. According to recent statistics, they employ 3.35 million people nationwide, representing over 4 percent of all U.S. businesses. In Chicago, an estimated 53,603 jobs and thousands of businesses are related to arts/culture.

The *New Life Academy School of the Performing Arts* will be the **ONLY** performing arts charter school on the south side of Chicago, offering a tuition-free education, initially for junior-high 7th and 8th grade students (eventually to serve grades 7-12). This school is further developing strategic partnerships with Edison Learning, the Common Ground Foundation and Revolution Foods to name a few, in anticipation opening during the fall 2016 school year.

New Life Covenant's vision is to provide an educationally stimulating and innovative learning environment where students recognize and achieve their full academic and artistic cultural potential. In conjunction with various community partners, the *New Life Academy School of the Performing Arts* will aspire to have a rigorous curriculum and seek to maintain an excellent spectrum of creative, performing arts offerings.

There is a great need for this arts-focused education in our state as well as in our country. Having a south side-based school like the *New Life Academy School of the Performing Arts* will help to encourage students to pursue advanced degrees, start businesses, and give back to their communities throughout their life. This is what these neighborhoods need and this program will provide young people solutions for good education and ensure proper employment opportunities.

As Alderman of the 8th Ward, I am in support of the *New Life Academy School of the Performing Arts*. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle A. Harris,
Alderman, 8th Ward

MAH: sa/dm