

Good morning Chairman and members. My name is Cherise Coleman, and I am here to express my strong support for Legal Prep Academy.

Legal Prep Academy is needed because our students deserve access to educational opportunities that connect academic learning with real-world skills. This school will introduce students to law, leadership, public service, critical thinking, communication, and civic responsibility—areas that can prepare them for college, meaningful careers, and active participation in their communities.

As a law-enforcement professional and social worker, I have seen how education, mentorship, structure, and early intervention can positively change the direction of a young person's life. Many students have the ability to succeed but may not always have access to specialized programs that help them recognize their strengths and envision a future for themselves.

Legal Prep Academy will provide students in grades 6 through 12 with a unique opportunity to explore careers in law, criminal justice, government, advocacy, and public service. It can also help develop confident young leaders who understand their rights, responsibilities, and ability to create positive change.

The impact of this academy will extend beyond the classroom. Strong, educated, and engaged students contribute to stronger families, safer neighborhoods, and a healthier community.

Our students should not have to leave their community to find an innovative and meaningful educational opportunity. They deserve a school that believes in their potential, challenges them academically, and prepares them to become the next generation of attorneys, judges, law-enforcement professionals, social workers, policymakers, and community leaders.

I respectfully ask that you support Legal Prep Academy and give our students the opportunity to learn, lead, and build a brighter future.

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