

Alabama Trust For Historic Preservation Powell School

Samuel H. Frazier
Michael Calvert

TELEPHONE (205) 328-4100
TELEPHONE (205) 903-8046

E-mail Address: shf@spain-gillon.com
E-mail Address: michaelalcalvert@yahoo.com

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Honorable William A. Bell, Sr.
Mayor, City of Birmingham
City Hall
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Re: Powell School -
Application from the Forest Park - South Avondale Neighborhood

Dear Mayor Bell:

At the Neighborhood meeting last night, after reviewing the history of Powell School and your efforts to save and restore it, I announced your support of the application for a HUD § 108 loan to finance the Project, subject to the priority of the Pizitz Project, which is so vital to the revitalization of Downtown to the West of 20th Street. I expressed my opinion that with your announcement of support, Powell's future is secured.

We discussed the significance of Powell, which is well known to Forest Park - South Avondale residents, and, indeed, to most residents in the wider community. It was the first permanent public school in Birmingham. There is hardly a pioneer family here which did not have an early member educated there. In its last years as a public school it was the domain of the legendary Eva Hardy Jones, its principal. The work of her students still adorns many of its bulletin boards. Architecturally, it is a most important High Victorian building, second only to St. Paul's Cathedral. It deserves, and has, the heart of the entire Birmingham Community.

The Neighborhood authorized, indeed, directed, me to thank you profoundly for your unfailing efforts for Powell and for preservation in general and to publicize that thanks as widely as possible. I am very pleased to do so.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thank you most sincerely on behalf of our whole community.

Yours Very Truly,



Samuel H. Frazier
President, Forest Park - South Avondale Neighborhood
Alabama Advisor to the National Trust for Historic Foundation

cc: Peggy Hair
David Schneider
Alice Bowsher
Jay Smith
Valerie Abbott
Johnathan Austin
Martha Epsy
Jeff McGee
Joseph Baker
Michael Calvert