

**Memo to DC PCSB – Response to Facility Questions
Attachment C**

1. Describe the neighborhood of the proposed location (e.g., residential, commercial, Metro-accessibility, other schools, recreational facilities).

1800 Perry St NE is in a residential neighborhood on the east edge of Brookland and bordering Woodridge in Ward 5. The closest metro lines are Brookland (1.0 miles), Rhode Island Ave (1.7 miles), and Fort Totten (1.8 miles). The G8, H6, and R4 buses provide access from Brookland, the E2 bus provides access from Fort Totten, and the 83 86, T14, and T18 provide access from the Rhode Island Ave metro.

1800 Perry St NE would be a co-location with LAMB's South Dakota campus, which serves grades PK3-5 and Perry Street Prep, which serves grades PK3-8. The closest DCPS schools are Burroughs Elementary School (PK3-5 and 0.3 miles south), Bunker Hill Elementary School (PK3-5 and 0.7 miles northeast), Langdon Elementary School (PK3-5 and 1.0 mile south), Noyes Elementary School (PK3-5 and 1.4 miles southwest), Brookland Middle School (6-8 and 1.0 mile west), and Luke C. Moore Opportunity Academy High School (9-12 and 1.0 mile southwest). Students who live in the neighborhood are zoned for Brookland Middle School and Dunbar High School (9-12 and 3.2 miles southwest). The closest DC Public Charter Schools other than LAMB South Dakota and Perry Street Prep are Shining Stars Montessori Academy (PK3-6 and 0.9 miles west) and Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Brookland (PK3-5 and 0.8 miles west).

The closest recreational facility is Turkey Thicket, which is 1.0 mile west. The nearest public library is the Woodridge Neighborhood Library, which is 0.7 miles south.

2. Describe all outreach that has been done in the local community of the proposed location. If the school intends to co-locate, please describe this relationship. Submit documentation of engagement with neighbors, ANC Commissioners, Councilmembers, and other community partners.

Due to its central location in relation to the District's 9 public Montessori elementary school campuses, Ward 5 has been the target location for The Sojourner Truth School since its initial planning stages. Post initial charter approval, Ward 5 Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie was engaged on April 15, 2019 regarding our hopes for locating in Ward 5 and door to door canvassing and promotion in the 1800 Perry St NE neighborhood started in June of 2019. Truth engaged with Ward 5 State Board of Education representative Zachary Parker regarding interest in locating in Ward 5 on July 15, 2019, and met with Jonathan McNair, of Ward 5 Councilmember McDuffie's staff, on July 23, 2019 to discuss programming and our hopes of finding a Ward 5 facility. Truth leadership attended the Ward 5 Race and Choice forum on July 24, 2019 and publicly shared hopes of locating there. Truth participated in Ward 5 Day on September 14, 2019 and publicly shared its hopes of locating there.

After considering opportunities on Edgewood St NE and engaging publicly and positively with ANC 5E leaders throughout October and November of 2019, the space at 1800 Perry St NE became available and Truth began to actively pursue it as a viable option in November of 2019. Truth leadership met with ANC5b02 Commissioner Ursula Higgins on December 15, 2019 to share hopes of locating at 1800 Perry St NE in order to solicit concerns and thoughts. On December 19, 2019 Truth shared these hopes to locate specifically at 1800 Perry St NE with Councilmember McDuffie and staff member McNair to gauge concerns and receptivity.

The Truth team canvassed the neighborhood of 1800 Perry St NE on December 10 and December 17, 2019 and January 17, 2020 to pass out flyers indicating our hope of locating there and to provide a phone number, email address, and in-person opportunities to share any concerns or thoughts before a lease was signed. Truth leadership then presented to ANC5b at their January 22, 2020 meeting to share plans and solicit thoughts and concerns prior to the signing of a lease.

In the entirety of the above efforts, Truth has yet to hear a concern from a neighbor or community leader about locating at 1800 Perry St NE. The feedback we have received from neighbors has been only positive, and we have explicit support from ANC5b02 Commissioner Higgins ([letter of support forthcoming for 2/24](#)).

This would be a co-location with LAMB South Dakota and with Perry Street Prep (and also with a private school named St Jerome Academy that has a satellite campus with about 8 students on the 3rd floor of Perry Street Prep). Truth has been actively engaged with Perry Street Prep's leadership since the summer of 2019 regarding a possible co-location and with the hope that Truth could be a high school option for middle school graduates of Perry Street Prep. Truth has a strong programmatic and philosophical relationship with LAMB, and about 10% of current applicants (8 out of 83 as of January 24, 2020) are from LAMB. Truth also has a community partnership with the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) that will provide enrichment via UDC's Ward 5 Bertie-Backus campus (1.6 miles northwest). ([Formal letter of support from UDC forthcoming for 2/24](#).)

3. Describe all student recruitment efforts you have made or will make in the local community of the new school location and across DC. Include how many students have enrolled (or applied), and what contingencies you have developed in case the location enrolls fewer students than anticipated.

Three of the District's 9 public Montessori campuses are in Ward 5 (Shining Stars Montessori Academy, Lee Montessori Brookland, and LAMB South Dakota), and these communities have been stakeholders of Truth from its inception and early design stages going back to 2017. Truth has been actively promoting and canvassing in Ward 5 since June of 2019. This has consisted of door-to-door efforts, ongoing info sessions at the Woodridge and Lamond-Riggs public libraries, presence at events such as Ward 5 Day and the Ward 5 Race and Choice Forum, and postcard mailings to all homes within a mile radius of 1800 Perry St NE.

As of January 24, 2020 we have 18 student applications from Ward 5. We have 7 applications from Ward 1, 19 applications from Ward 4, 4 applications from Ward 6, 20 applications from Ward 7, and 15 applications from Ward 8. As of January 24, 2020 we have not been able to post a Ward 5 address on MySchoolDC, and our hope is that once the lease is signed and the facility location approved we will be able to provide Ward 5 parents with even more assurity that we will in fact be accessible.

The current lease cost is just under our anticipated facilities funding if we reach our enrollment ceiling of 90 students. Our budget workbooks to this point have assumed that we will pay 109% of the facilities allotment, and so this lease structure (and rent that falls within the allotment) affords some built-in cushion for contingency in the event that we do not meet enrollment targets. Further contingencies will come with adjustments to our staffing model (such as reducing our counseling team from two members in year one to just one member).