



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF ST. LOUIS
MISSOURI**

**FRANCIS G. SLAY
MAYOR**

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July 12, 2012

Mr. Shane Duggin
Board President
Lafayette Preparatory Academy
1719 Preseton Place, #2
St. Louis, MO 63104

Dear Mr. Duggin:

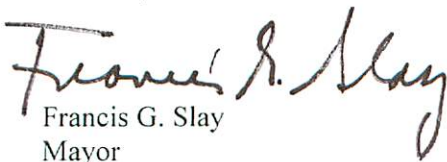
Thank you for responding to the Request For Proposals for quality public charter schools in the City of St. Louis. The Mayor's Charter School Advisory Board has reviewed your application and has unanimously recommended your application to me.

I concur with the recommendations of the Advisory Board and am enthusiastically endorsing your application for the Lafayette Preparatory Academy Charter School to open in the 2013-14 school year. I understand that your school will serve the children in Downtown/Near Southside neighborhoods of Soulards, Lafayette Square, Clinton Peabody, King Louis, LaSalle Park, Downtown and Downtown West. This is an area that is in need of a quality public school. I commend and support your targeted location.

My office will be in contact with potential sponsors. As you are aware, the environment in St. Louis is such that quality sponsorship of charter schools has been very difficult. I issued the RFP and developed the rigorous review process in order to assist quality schools with access to sponsors. However, my endorsement is in no way a guarantee of obtaining a sponsor.

On behalf of the children and families in the City of St. Louis, please accept my warmest thanks for the efforts you have put forth thus far and for your vision for the Greater Downtown and near-Southside portion of our city.

Sincerely,


Francis G. Slay
Mayor

CC: Members, Mayor's Charter School Advisory Board

