

ODE TO PAMELA OGLETREE
Opening Day
Benjamin Banneker Charter School
Cambridge, Massachusetts
September 5, 1996

Cambridge today has much to celebrate. Today we water the newly planted seeds of a dream-- the dream that all Cambridge children can achieve academic excellence. These seeds have been in the custody and care of many persons, but none more than Pamela Ogletree. Pam, a woman planted next to a "tree" is herself is a mighty mahogany tree-- solid, beautiful, everlasting.

Pamela Ogletree had the most important job of carefully fashioning the reality of this day. She made us realize the Benjamin Banneker School from the dreams of many. She has been our dream keeper. We have chosen well to have "Pam" keep the dream of the Benjamin Banneker Charter School. She has been diligent, conscientious, wise, unrelenting, firm, formidable, steadfast and immovable in assuring that the dream of the Benjamin Banneker Charter School would become a reality.

James Baldwin says that we do not have to accept the world as we find it, nor do we have to leave it the way it is.

Pamela Ogletree selflessly saw that the world of public education in America and here in Cambridge needs loving attention-- it needs changing, strengthening; it needs to look in the mirror and see that it fails sadly more often than it succeeds. But it doesn't have to fail. In the spirit of James Baldwin, Pamela Ogletree knew that she did not have to leave the state of public education the way that she found it-- she could not leave it the way it was.

Pam, wherever you go, and whatever you do in life from this day forward, you should hold this truth evident-- that without your diligence, love, and strength, there would be no Benjamin Banneker School. Your efforts collectively and individually have established in these rooms the New Jerusalem of education in Cambridge. Here the sole goal will be to aim high and to attain lofty goals. Here there will be academic rigor and implanted in each child will be the light of "being special".

Pam, thank you for choosing to do this important and "hard" thing. Thank you for caring enough about your community and our collective future to take a stand upon the rock of equal access to quality education. May each student in each seat in each classroom achieve the victory that your nurturing leadership and vision have secured-- so that victory could be claimed by all those who enter the Benjamin Banneker School. You have knit together the dreams of our foreparents and the challenges of our future.

Thank you for a tough job, well done.

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City of Cambridge

103.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 9, 1996

COUNCILLOR REEVES
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

RESOLVED: That the City Council extend its thanks and appreciation to **Pamela Ogletree**, on her fine job as Interim Director of the Benjamin Banneker Charter School; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk prepare and forward a suitably engrossed resolution to Pamela Ogletree on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council September 9, 1996
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- *D. Margaret Drury*
D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

KR

Resolved: That the City Council extend its hearty
 Ken Reeves: Congratulations to Pamela Ogletree, who
 has been appointed

City Clerk to prepare a ~~public~~ resolution ~~congratulatory~~
 to Pamela Ogletree, Interim Director of the
 Benjamin Banneker ~~Charter~~ School

→ Interim Director of the Benjamin
 Banneker ^{Charter School}, and be it further

Resolved: That the City Clerk prepare and
 forward as suitably engrossed
 resolution to Pamela Ogletree on behalf
 of the entire City Council



City of Cambridge

103.

IN CITY COUNCIL

September 9, 1996

COUNCILLOR REEVES

RESOLVED: That the City Council extend its hearty congratulations to **Pamela Ogletree**, who has been appointed Interim Director of the Benjamin Banneker Charter School; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk prepare and forward a suitably engrossed resolution to Pamela Ogletree on behalf of the entire City Council.

KR- *Born [unclear] Sullivan*
Consent Order #103

Sullivan Dooney Triantafyllou

Hearty congratulations to Pamela
Ogletree on her appointment as
Interim Director of the Benjamin
Banneker Charter School.

R-898

In City Council September 9, 1996

ORDER ADOPTED