

Peters, Tammy

9/1/10 Common Wealth
Development

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From: Tariq Pasha Saqqaf [tariq@cwd.org]
Sent: Wednesday, September 01, 2010 1:52 PM
To: Peters, Tammy; Berling, Richard; Brown, Joanne; Cnare, Lauren; Czyszczak-Lyne, Mary; Lisa Subek; Obregon, Ben; Paul VanRooy; Rodriguez, Nancy; Small, Stephen; Solomon, Brian; Solomon, Brian; Sweet, Alan; wancomp
Cc: bclingan@cityofmadison.com; Noel, Laura; O'Donnell, Mary; Wendorf, Lorri
Subject: Common Wealth Development Expansion
Categories: CSC

Dear Members of the Community Services Committee,

Thank you again for the tremendous time and effort you have all put into this process. Thank you too for your support of Common Wealth Development over the years. We very much appreciate it and consider you partners in our goals to increase the employment and financial education and opportunities available to Madison teens.

I will not be attending the meeting this evening but I hope you will consider adding Common Wealth's Youth-Business Mentoring Program to the B list for further funding. 2010 funding from the Community Resources Program combined with the extra \$15,000 we received from the City's Contingency Reserves was integral to making our expansion possible. A loss of \$15,000 in 2011 will be an immediate step backward from an endpoint we have been working toward for the past several years. We at Common Wealth understand and appreciate the constraints upon the Committee at this point but hope you will still be able to replace funding to our program. Our Youth-Business Mentoring Program has now expanded from serving 110 Madison teens in six Madison sessions of our program per year to serving 140 Madison teens in eight Madison sessions per year. We have finally reached the point that we can serve teens attending West and Memorial High Schools every semester just as we do teens attending East and La Follette High Schools. Teens attending West and Memorial had no access to the type of programming we offer until 2008. At that point it was only available to 15 teens, once per year, at each of these two schools. Teens that wanted to work were largely left to their own devices. Our consistent presence there now offers them a proven entry into the world of gainful employment and the support to succeed and grow once they are there. It is a critical way of addressing some of the needs of the many underserved youth living on the West, South and Southwest sides of Madison who may not gravitate to other types of programming.

Again, thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Tariq

Tariq Pasha Saqqaf
Youth Programs Director

**Check out these news stories about
Common Wealth Development's Youth Programs!**

Ciera working at Metcalfe's Sentry (2:17)

Darcia working at Rejuvenation Spa and James working at Marshalls (4:05)

Graduation from the inaugural West Madison Youth-Business Mentoring Program (1:00)

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