March 3, 2020

The matter of greatest concern facing A. W. Brown Leadership Academy (AWBLA) is the liability and weight of taxation on a public Charter School property. Unlike regular ISD’s, we at AWBLA do not have the use of funding through local assessed property taxes and therefore we rely solely on funding through Texas Education Agency (T.E.A.) based on our enrollment.

With parents having many options for public Charter Schools, it is imperative for AWBLA to remain competitive. We must be in a position to hire the most qualified educators and provide the tools to maintain their professional development. In addition, we must also be able to introduce and maintain technology not only for our educators but for our scholars as well so they may be equipped for the global world of today and the future.

Our efforts to meet and maintain these objectives will be greatly jeopardized should we have to continue to make budget decisions affecting curriculum and staff in order to meet an assessed tax burden on our public Charter School property.

We ask you to consider our request to receive a tax -exempt status for our property. AWBLA serves a diverse minority community. We offer parent assistance services, tutoring for scholars with learning challenges, character development and opportunities for our scholars to be introduced to Fine Arts and Athletics to which some might not otherwise have opportunity to experience.

For AWBLA to continue with these avenues of enrichment we must have a supporting budget. Our budget will be challenged with how to continue to enrich the lives of our scholars, maintain competitive salaries and offer a curriculum to challenge, engage, and produce smart, effective, efficient, discipled scholars without a tax exemption on our property.

I humbly submit for your consideration our request for a tax-exempt status on our property. A property which is a valuable part of our scholars learning and life enrichment.

Respectfully,

Lou Ann Phillips

Board President, AWBLA