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February 20, 2017

Chris Kliethermes (chair)
Honorary Degree and Drake Medal Committee
Olin Hall; Drake University
1344 27th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50311

Re: Nomination of Wayne Ford for an Honorary Doctorate Degree

Dear Chris,

I am writing to nominate Wayne Ford for an Honorary Doctorate Degree. With this nomination, I am including the form developed by your committee for the nomination which I believe provides a great deal of information in support of this nomination. Rather than reiterating that information in this letter of nomination, I would like to provide the reasoning for my nomination based upon my own personal experience of working with Wayne for over thirty (30) years.

I graduated from the Drake University Law School in 1977 and stayed in Des Moines since that time primarily in the private practice of law before coming to the Drake Law School. Throughout the 23 years that I practiced law in Des Moines, I worked closely with many community leaders on issues of discrimination, crime, and poverty. I have had the pleasure of working with Wayne Ford in his capacity as Executive Director of Urban Dreams, as an Iowa legislator, and in his role as a community organizer. Since coming to Drake, I have continued to work with Wayne Ford and other community activists. In each of his capacities, Wayne has been a champion for the Drake Neighborhood, advocating for creating opportunities for youth and adults who live in the neighborhood as well as for safety in the neighborhood. Wayne Ford has an outstanding reputation in Des Moines as a "peacemaker."

Wayne Ford has also been a strong advocate for racial equity and racial justice. He was appointed by the Governor to serve on a task force to address the racial disparities in Iowa's criminal justice system, including the extreme racial disparity in Iowa's prisons. He wrote legislation to require a "minority impact statement"

for all legislation proposed in the Iowa Statehouse so that unanticipated impacts of racial disparities would not occur. This legislation has served as a model for numerous other states.

Wayne has also been a very vocal supporter of Drake University. He rarely speaks to any group without recounting his positive experience as a Drake student. He frequently recounts his belief that Drake University changed his life. He has been a long-term host of both a television show and a radio show and, in those programs, he frequently speaks positively about our university.

Thank you for considering my nomination of Wayne Ford for an honorary doctorate degree from Drake University. I believe the awarding of an honorary doctorate decree to Wayne will not only be a well-deserved honor for him, but will be a real honor for this university. His whole career and life has been an example of the principles that Drake University holds itself out to inculcate in its students.

If you have any other questions or would like to talk to me personally about Wayne Ford, do not hesitate to contact me at (515) 271-2073.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry R. Foxhoven", is written over a horizontal line.

Jerry R. Foxhoven, Executive Director of Clinical Programs
Drake University Law School

HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATION

Nominee: Wayne Ward Ford

Profession or occupation: Executive Director, Urban Dreams; President, Wayne Ford & Associates

Business address: Urban Dreams, 601 Forest Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50314

Home address: 3301 Cottage Grove Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50311

Phone number and/or email of Nominee: (h) 515.271.0605; (w) 515.288.4742; (c) 515.720.3495; (email): wford14275@aol.com or waynewford@icloud.com

Reasons for nomination:

Wayne Ward Ford was born in Washington D.C.'s inner city in 1951. Although he was a success on the football field and named all-conference defensive tackle for Ballou High School, he was also voted "most likely *not* to succeed" by his classmates because of his involvement in various juvenile crimes. In spite of that, Ford received a scholarship to play football for Rochester Junior College in Minnesota and continued his football career and his education at Drake University, graduating in 1974 on the Dean's List with a Bachelor's Degree in Education.

Just two years later (in 1976), Ford hosted his first U.S. Presidential Forum with the sponsoring organization "Concerned Citizens for Minority Affairs." In 1984, Ford, along with Latino community leader Mary Campos, founded the "Brown & Black Presidential Forum," which is now the nation's oldest ongoing minority presidential forum.

In 1985, Ford founded the nonprofit social service organization Urban Dreams to serve the needs of Des Moines' inner-city residents. (See: <http://sparkaction.org/node/2700>). Ford has since served as the Executive Director. He will retire from this position in September of this year. He has worked tirelessly to provide a safer environment in the Drake area. Dana Wingert, Des Moines Police Chief, said the following about Ford's impact on community safety and enrichment: "Since the inception of Urban Dreams, Mr. Ford has been a major player in

identifying and addressing community issues in the areas that need it the most. He has taken the stance that no issue is too big, too dangerous, or too sensitive to overcome. Over the years, the relationship with the Des Moines Police Department has turned into a friendship and true partnership as we continue to work towards the common goal of safety and prosperity in Des Moines. Mr. Ford's dedication and commitment to public service is widely recognized as a critical factor in what sets Des Moines apart from other cities. We are blessed to have Wayne Ford working in our community. . . .”

In 1992, Ford began his own consulting firm, Wayne Ford & Associates, whose primary mission is to help businesses throughout Iowa recruit and retain minority employees, to empower nonprofit community organizations through development of high-risk youth projects and community initiatives, and to help Iowa communities deal effectively with increasing urbanization. His consulting firm has worked with employers such as Principal Financial Group, Mercy Medical Center, MidAmerican Energy, the YMCA and Broadlawns Medical Center. In 1999, Mr. Ford became a member of the Board of Trustees of the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation of Washington D.C., a social advocacy organization. (See: http://www.eisenhowerfoundation.org/frames/media/TheyLiveTheDream_Parade_Jun18-2001.html).

From 1996 to his retirement in 2011, Ford served as an Iowa State Representative – only the tenth African-American in the state's history to hold such a position. As an Iowa State Representative, Ford served on nearly every House standing and appropriations committee. Ford served on the Joint Prison Restructuring Committee, Governor's Nonprofit Organizations Council, State Government Accountability Committee, Joint Targeted Small Business Committee, Lead Paint Prevention Committee, Medical Homes Committee; and he was Co-Chair of the Governor's Task Force on Overrepresentation of Blacks in Prison. He authored Iowa's landmark Minority Impact Legislation, the first such legislation in the nation, requiring the impact on minorities be evaluated with respect to proposed criminal laws and other state actions. Representative Ford also authored Iowa's law requiring testing for lead paint exposure when children start in school.

Ford was Chair of Region XI (Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas) of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators in 2006 and chaired the NBCSL's Insurance Committee in 2007. He was First Vice-Chair of the NBCSL Business, Finance, and Insurance Committee and the Sports and Entertainment Committee from 2008 to 2010. He authored landmark NBCSL resolutions on minority impact statements, health care, college student athletes, telecommunications and economic development.

Mr. Ford was actively involved in efforts to preserve a part of old Fort Des Moines as a national historic landmark and is a member of the Fort Des Moines Black Officers Memorial Board of Advisors. Fort Des Moines has a unique place in African-American history as it is the only place in the country to train black U.S. Army officers during World War I, as well as providing training of black women to become WAAC's during World War II.

Ford's dramatic rise from D.C.'s inner city to Iowa's capitol has been chronicled in numerous publications, including *The Des Moines Register*, *The Washington Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Source* and *Parade*. In 2001, award-winning journalist Dan Rather personally selected Ford's unique life story for inclusion in Rather's best-selling book, *The American Dream*. (See <http://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-688-17892-5>).

Ford has been inducted into numerous Halls of Fame including Rochester Community College's Alumni Hall of Fame in 1994, Drake University's Double-D award for athletics and civic involvement in 1995, Des Moines B'nai Brith Sports Hall of Fame in 2002 and the Iowa State African-American Hall of Fame in 2004. In 2009, *The Des Moines Register* presented him with its highest civic recognition award, the Iowa Star Award, for his impact on the State of Iowa. He received the Shining Star Award from the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women, an affiliate of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) in 2008. He was awarded the NBCSL Eagle Award for outstanding service to the organization in 2011. In 2016, he received the NAACP Des Moines Branch's Individual Community Service Recognition Award.

Wayne Ford has spent a lifetime working to improve the lives of the disadvantaged and fighting against poverty, gang violence, discrimination and injustice. Throughout his career, he has emphasized the importance of his education from

Drake University in providing him the skills and commitment to make him a successful advocate and public servant. He has lived a life embodying the Drake University Statement of Principles, especially the following: “Drake values the fact that it is a community consisting of men and women of different races, nationalities, religions, physical abilities, sexual orientation, ages, political perspectives, and other diverse characteristics. While acknowledging our differences we affirm the dignity and freedom of every individual. We abhor acts of oppression, be they denial of freedom of expression, discrimination in its various forms of sexism or racism, or intolerance of religion, age, sexual orientation, or political beliefs; or harassment of any member of the university community.”

Connection(s) to Drake University: Bachelor’s Degree in Education, 1974.

Nominated by: Jerry R. Foxhoven, Executive Director, Drake Legal Clinic

Phone: 515.271.2073

Email: jerry.foxhoven@drake.edu

Required materials:

- Letter of nomination*
- 2–3 letters of additional support*
- Resume or CV (as appropriate)*
- Other supporting documentation specific to the nominee*



Office of the President
Borgen Administration Center
2006 South Ankeny Boulevard
Ankeny, Iowa 50023-3993

Dr. Chris Kliethermes
Honorary Degree and Drake Medal Committee
Olin Hall, Drake University
1344 27th St.
Des Moines, Iowa 50311

Dear Dr. Kliethermes:

I am writing to join others in nominating Wayne Ford for an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Drake University.

I have known and worked extensively with Wayne since I became President of Des Moines Area Community College in 2003 and am very aware of his commitment to Iowa, Des Moines, and all individuals with barriers of any kind who are working to better their lives. During this time, Wayne served as a State Representative, Executive Director of Urban Dreams, and as a member of many issue-based task forces and committees.

Wayne is frequently contacted by State and City officials to convene local leaders in order to investigate and prepare a community response to issues that confronts inequities and avoids further problems. His reputation and skill in facilitation allow him ready access to all population sectors and to make everyone feel that they have been heard. He then holds those who have the ability to respond accountable.

Wayne and I have worked together on many initiatives that have led to additional support for community members. The most visible is the Evelyn Davis Center for Working Families that now services approximately 5000 individuals per year. Other projects include encouraging high school drop-outs to return to complete their education, utilizing Public Allies to expand services, support for ex-offenders, etc.

I enthusiastically support this nomination.

Robert J. Denson, President, Des Moines Area Community College

Ankeny Campus
2006 S. Ankeny Blvd
Ankeny, IA 50023-3993
515-964-6200

Boone Campus
1125 Hancock Dr.
Boone, IA 50036-5399
515-432-7203

Carroll Campus
906 N. Grant Rd.
Carroll, IA 51401-2525
712-792 1755

*Newton
Polytechnic Campus*
600 N. 2nd Ave. W.
Newton, IA 50208-3049
641-791-3622

Urban Campus
1100 7th St
Des Moines, IA 50314-2597
515-244-4226

West Campus
5959 Grand Ave.
WDM, IA 50266-5302
515-633-2407

February 27, 2017



Chris Kliethermes (Chair)
Honorary Degree and Drake Medal Committee
Olin Hall; Drake University
1344 27th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50311

Re: Nomination of Wayne Ford for an Honorary Doctorate Degree

Dear Ms. Kliethermes:

I write in support of the nomination of Wayne Ford for an honorary doctorate degree from Drake University. The Des Moines Police Department has had a long relationship with Mr. Ford and Urban Dreams, and I am pleased to encourage his nomination.

We have always found Wayne Ford and Urban Dreams to be willing to tackle difficult and sensitive social issues faced by many citizens in our community. Their outreach has become the hallmark of Urban Dreams, and when appropriate, the Police Department is called upon to partner in these efforts.

Urban Dreams has partnered with us on several projects over the years. Wayne and his staff at Urban Dreams have strived to recruit and monitor the youth who participate in our Junior Explorer Program. This career oriented program is aimed at preparing teenagers aged 14-19 for the future.

Under Wayne's direction, Urban Dreams also partners with us on our Second Chance Program. This program offers youthful offenders an opportunity to avoid criminal prosecution by participating in a program that provides counseling and assistance in continuing their education and security employment. Program participants are required to attend one meeting and be without criminal charges for six months. Criminal charges are not pursued on participants who complete the program and do not reoffend in that time period.

Urban Dreams has historically been committed to changing lives in the inner-city area. The working relationship between Urban Dreams and the Des Moines Police Department spans many years with many successful programs and projects completed in the spirit of community betterment.

The Des Moines Police Department is proud of the valued relationship we have with Urban Dreams, and we look forward to a continued partnership with new, innovative endeavors in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wingert".

Dana Wingert
Chief of Police

STATE OF IOWA
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Romonda D. Belcher
District Associate Judge

POLK COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER
222 FIFTH AVENUE
DES MOINES, IOWA 50309

Romonda.Belcher@iowacourts.gov
515-286-3157



February 28, 2017

Chris Kliethermes, Chair
Honorary Degree and Drake Medal Committee
Olin Hall, Drake University
1344 27th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50311

RE: Letter in Support of Wayne Ford's Nomination for an Honorary Doctorate Degree

Dear Mr. Kliethermes:

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter in support of the nomination of Wayne Ford for an Honorary Doctorate Degree. I have known Wayne for over 20 years and quite personally for the past 13 years. I do not know a more deserving individual to bestow such an honor. Wayne is genuine, generous and passionate about leaving everything he touches better than the way he found it.

As a 1995 graduate of Drake University Law School, I, like Wayne after graduating from Drake in 1974, chose to stay in Iowa because of opportunity. Wayne has maximized his opportunities through his willingness to give back and relentless commitment to public service. As a legislator, he authored groundbreaking legislation that continues to be impactful today. He embodies distinguished selflessness in ensuring racial equity and equal justice in application of the law. He is dedicated to giving of himself, his time and his talents to impact racial disparities and the overrepresentation of minorities in Iowa's criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Despite his humble beginnings in Washington, DC, Wayne has become a strong and well-respected voice in the community. As Executive Director of Urban Dreams, a non-profit human service agency, Wayne paves the way of access for those who are disenfranchised.

Wayne is both a visionary and a change agent. His accomplishments, commanding presence and compassionate spirit have left an indelible footprint in the history of the State of Iowa. It has been a most inspiring, uplifting and empowering journey as I have gotten to know Wayne over the years.

Thank you for your consideration of my letter of support for Wayne Ford for this distinguished honor. Should you need to contact me, please do not hesitate to call me at the number above or at 515-770-9797.

With Sincerest Regards,

Romonda D. Belcher