

Letter to Councilor Yancey for Louverture Avenue in Massachusetts

UNITED, INC.

Founded in May 2000- Massachusetts

January 14, 2008

Honorable Charles Yancey
Boston City Council
Boston City Hall
Boston MA 02118

Dear Councilor Yancey:

I am writing to you as the founder of the Mattapan-based Haitian-Americans United, Inc. (H.A.U.) about an important community project that your well-documented knowledge of Caribbean and Haitian history make you uniquely qualified to understand.

Local Haitians have long entertained the idea of marking their rich history in this city with a landmark that will cement the historical connection between Massachusetts and Haiti. This letter is to request your help in promoting a City Council resolution that will 1) name a major Mattapan street after Haitian hero Toussaint Louverture and 2) identify a site where a monument might be erected. We invite the Council to consider that:

- Mattapan, Dorchester, are home to the largest populations of Haitian-Americans, who annually gather thousands of participants to celebrate their heritage.
- Major cities in the U.S. (Miami, Orange, and Savannah) have been naming streets, schools or erecting statues after this Haitian hero to help raise awareness about black history.
- Massachusetts is specially positioned to support such a concept, having been the theater of some of the fiercest speeches on behalf of Haiti, notably by abolitionists Wendell Phillips, Frederic Douglas or Senator Charles Summer – to mention a few that you have yourself so eloquently quoted in the past.
- In 2003, the City of Boston, through your support to the Haitian Artists Assembly of Massachusetts commemorating the bicentennial of Toussaint Louverture's death, adopted a resolution naming April 7, 2003, Toussaint Louverture Day.

Should more documentation of these links be required to support our request, we will be happy to provide them. In the meantime we would appreciate the opportunity of a meeting to address any issues that you may have, discuss the best ways to materialize this project and explore what sites or streets might be the more appropriate choices. Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wilner Auguste
H.A.U. Founder & Board Member

Cc:

State Representative Marie Saint Fleur
Governor Deval Patrick
Maureen Feeney, President of the City Council

State Representative Linda Dorcena Forry
Haitian Artists Assembly of Massachusetts
City Counselor Bob Consalvo