



HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
HATTIE MAE WHITE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER
4400 WEST 18th STREET • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77092-8501

November 1, 2015

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am extremely pleased to write this character reference on behalf of Prince Shembo. I've had the distinct pleasure of knowing Prince since he was a junior at Ardrey-Kell High School. During that time, I served as the school's principal. As a student leader and team captain, Prince excelled and lettered in both basketball and football. He displayed strong leadership skills in the classroom as well as on the field. He was committed to achieving the highest academic standards as evidenced by his solid gpa and acceptance into the prestigious University of Notre Dame. Prince was wise beyond his years as he frequently sought the counsel and advice of his elders. I remember he and I conversing frequently about whether he should attend the University of Notre Dame or the University of Miami; weighing the pros and cons of attending each institution.

Prince was well respected by students and staff. He consistently displayed a respectful and humble attitude and an appreciation for his God given talents and the successes that he experienced. Consequently, I'd like to respond directly to an incident that occurred while Prince was attending Ardrey-Kell High School. I fear that this incident has caused a dark cloud to linger over Prince's reputation. This incident has been grossly exaggerated and widely misinterpreted and unfortunately, has negatively characterized Prince. Prince never displayed any violent behavior and never was any student or staff member in any danger. There is no evidence that Prince flipped over a desk or threw a book bag. Unfortunately, Prince was victimized by a system that was centered on a "zero tolerance" philosophy with regards to code of conduct infractions that often led to steep punishment and harsh consequences.

In all of my interactions with Prince he has proven to be a young man of character and intelligence. Prince was one of the hardest working student athletes I have ever worked with. Prince Shembo was an outstanding high school football and basketball player and he was and equally outstanding young man. I know Prince to be consistent, dedicated and passionate, enthusiastic, cheerful, and a pleasure to work with. He has incredible creative energies and a refreshing idealism tempered to accomplish what needs to be done. It is without reservation or equivocation that I submit this character reference on behalf of Prince Shembo. Thank you once again for the opportunity to speak on behalf of such a special and impressive young man.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Peters", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Harrison A. Peters
School Support Officer,
Houston Independent School District