

## PATRICIA FOLEY KARL SQUARE DEDICATION

My family and I would like to thank Mayor Rivera and other city officials in Lawrence for recognizing Patricia and thanking her for all her efforts to benefit the children of Lawrence.

After taking some time off to start a family, Patricia accepted a teaching position at the Bruce School back in her beloved Lawrence and in the neighborhood in which she grew up. After teaching for a number of years, Patricia sought new ways to have an impact. She worked at NECCUM and eventually became Director of the Lawrence Youth Commission. She pursued a Master's Degree in Educational Administration and when the state of Massachusetts allowed for the creation of charter schools, she seized on this new opportunity as a way to benefit the children of Lawrence.

Patricia was well prepared to pursue this new opportunity. She had the experience, knowledge and vision it would take to apply for and create the Lawrence Family Development Charter School. Working with a broad range of educators and parents, and through many years of fund-raising, networking and sheer will, her dream culminated in the creation of a school that has served the city for 25 years and educated thousands of students, many from immigrant families in this Immigrant City.

The schools, situated at Haverhill and West Streets in Lawrence, are, ironically, on the path that Patricia and 3 life-long friends walked for 4 years as they headed to high school each day. I am so pleased to say that those 3 friends from 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Ann Casey, Julie Bernardin and Kathy Kiernan, are here today to see Patricia receive this recognition.

Along the way, she expanded her vision to provide ESL and citizenship classes for the families of the charter school students because she knew that building strong families was important for student achievement. Another very important part of her mission was ensuring that charter school graduates could attend any number of private and parochial high schools. To that end, the Patricia Foley Karl scholarship fund raised money yearly to fund scholarships for her students. At the time of Patricia's passing she left behind an endowment worth over \$1,000,000. This is the legacy Patricia left and it is why we believe it is a well-deserved honor and a wonderful tribute to her that the Patricia Foley Karl Square is dedicated in her honor today.

*Remarks\_Russell Karl\_11-13-20*