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**Interoffice Memorandum**

To: Mayor Schmoke  
From: Ms. Diana Williams  
Subject: Health And Safety Issues  
Date: December 3, 1996

by I.H. Services, Inc.

Along with the constant threat of more exposure to lead, asbestos, and other dust hazards because of the on-going renovation at F.H.H.S., there are, also, other vital health and safety concerns that further question and challenge the rationale and motives for allowing the staff and students to remain in the building while an estimated 18-month renovation project is underway. Some of the health and safety issues I have been informed of as a result of a genuine concern for the well being of everyone include the following:

1. There are presently no bathrooms available for use on the 3rd floor.
2. There are currently no facilities available for washing hands or blackboards on the 3rd floor. And, the only drinking water on this floor is from one "Bear" bottled-water jug.
3. Presently there is one operable bathroom for female students available on the 2nd floor. However, there is another single-stall bathroom on this floor which may or may not be sanitary, operable, or accessible to staff and/or students on any given day.
4. Presently, there are 4 bathrooms on the first floor that are accessible to faculty and students. One of the bathrooms is a female handicap facility which can only be occupied by one individual at a time. Another bathroom on this floor is available for male students. The third bathroom, which was occupied by the Morgan State Headstart staff is, also, a single-stall facility. The fourth bathroom on this floor was also used by the Morgan State Headstart children until the Health Department removed those children from F.H.H.S. due to the evidence of very high levels of lead in paint samples, which was analyzed by Gascoyne Laboratories. There are a few more single-stall bathrooms on the first floor, but they are located inside offices which are not normally accessible to all staff and students.
5. Currently, there are about 6 exits that are blocked off due to the preparations for the estimated 18-month major renovation.

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- 6. Currently, 2 to 3 teachers and their classes are sharing one classroom. The Physical Education classes are being held in the cafeteria.
- 7. Due to the encapsulation, various fire code violations may be endangering lives, particularly in the event of an emergency.

Again, these are just some of the issues the faculty, parents, and students would hope to address.

I'm requesting that every effort should be made to immediately evacuate and relocate the faculty and students at Fairmount Harford High School. No human being should be coerced to work in an environment that is unsanitary, unhealthy, and unsafe. Certainly, our children should not be forced to come to an unhealthy facility; one where they are expected to perform academically in an environment that may not be appropriate or conducive to learning.

Thus, I would be honored to accompany you, Mayor Schmoke, on a tour of the facility to show these deplorable, inhumane, and absolutely unacceptable conditions.

Your response to these concerns and request will be most humbly appreciated.

- cc:BTU
- PTA
- School Board
- President Lawrence Bell
- Congressman E. Cummings
- Kweisi Mfume
- Chief Herman Williams Jr.
- Dr. Davoli
- Dr. Jacobs
- Dr. Mitchell
- Dr. Winner
- Mrs. Ruth Norton
- News Media
- File

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