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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Frederick Douglass Foundation of NY opposes this event and finds its justification insulting and destructive.

“Apparently White, Hispanic, Asian, Native American children need not apply”

Rochester, NY (February 16, 2017) – The Rochester City School District has scheduled a Black Lives Matter at School Day on February 17, 2017 citing, “understanding and affirmation in city schools ... that while all lives matter, black lives deserve special affirmation, attention and understanding right now”. Members of the Frederick Douglass Foundation of New York strongly oppose this event and find its justification insulting and destructive.

Regardless of the percentage of black students within the district, allowing a politically motivated movement associated with domestic terror attacks is NOT in the best interested of our children nor does this event serve to unite our community.

"Although, I respect that parents got together and used the school board process to push for something they care about, I just wish they cared more about kids having a sound education and were using their voice for something more productive, as well, the board should not be approving such things.", says Ayesha Kreutz, Founder of FDFNY.

Peter Vazquez, President of FDFNY said, "With a graduation rate below 50% and a graduation rate for black males less than 12% the RCSD should focus the school day on academics. Continuously telling a child that his or her color and/or circumstance are barriers - is counterproductive. It's a fact that part of this country's history is grim, but it's our history that made today's America more free, more inclusive, and more united. Let's teach all our students that we are Americans and all lives are valued the same; we are not victims of our color nor our circumstances. Let's not become victims of political pandering".

As an educational and taxpayer funded entity the schools focus must be academics. The racial divide our great country is experiencing will only end when we allow the healing process to begin. Discussion, debate, and unity under God is where this process starts.

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