



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LINC, Inc.'s Boarding School Plans Pass Rezoning Test and Advance to Pre-Construction Phase**

*With unanimous Wilmington City Council approval for rezoning of Wilmington fire station 3 at 3933 Princess Place Drive, LINC will finalize architectural plans and begin soliciting construction bids for the Hisan J. Polk Transformation Academy.*

[Wilmington, North Carolina, April 29 2024] - The dream of a culturally- and academically-specific boarding school for young Black men in New Hanover County has moved past a rezoning hurdle with the Wilmington City Council's unanimous approval of updating zoning for the decommissioned Wilmington fire station 3 at 3933 Princess Place Drive. The property, newly zoned O&I (office and institutional), was previously zoned R-10 medium density single dwelling.

Frankie Roberts, LINC, Inc. Executive Director, is enthusiastic about the next phase of the boarding school project, which is finalizing architectural designs and soliciting bids for a general contractor. The school, which will be named the Hisan J. Polk Transformation Academy, anticipates the first cohort of twelve students to be admitted in late 2025.

"The academy will provide Black youth who have dropped out of traditional school with an alternative path to a high school diploma and a certificate in a trade that promises a solid, rewarding career path," says Roberts. "These will be young men who have attained at minimum a 7th grade reading level, and who will benefit from a focused curriculum that capitalizes upon their accomplishments rather than on their failure in public school."

Architectural renderings, a vision statement, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) can be found at the LINC, Inc. website: <https://lincnc.org/programs/hisan-j-polk-transformation-academy/>

### **ABOUT LINC, INC.**

Leading Into New Communities, Inc. (LINC, Inc.) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Wilmington North Carolina that provides transitional living, case management services, and a network of programs to meet the needs of men and women returning from prison, with the goal of reducing recidivism, improving public safety, decreasing substance misuse, and empowering justice-involved individuals to become productive members of the community. LINC, Inc. also provides culturally-specific youth development programs and violence interventions for African American young men ages 16-24.