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Cornel West
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To: James L. Young, II
Webmaster
Prince Hall Memorial Committee

Dear James Young, II and to the Prince Hall Memorial Committee,

I appreciate the receipt of the official Press Release pertaining to the upcoming memorial dedicated to one of our first Civil and Social Rights activists, Prince Hall.

Prince Hall laid the often times forgotten footprints towards equality and social justice during an era , particularly, within the social environments of Boston, MA.; where injustice reigned against a people of color. Here stood a man possessing a trenchant and undying desire, while being a 'free' man, to be a voice of the voiceless, to substitute mistreatment with love, and valiantly spoke truth to power.

Prince Hall must be commended and highlighted for his bold stances in addressing the atrocities of the physical and mental bondage of his people, not only for the citizens subjected with such a reality within the city of Boston, MA, but for all people who found themselves in such a subjected state of existence. Halls pioneering communal efforts with implanting in the minds of his people the urgency to learn the rudimentary skills that may open their minds to new possibilities through embracing education. In addition, his networking abilities and influence to galvanize Harvard College students to assist with the education of African-Americans, from within his home, to ultimately establishing a physical location in the early 1800's.

Hall's ability to organize the first Black 'inter-state' organization within the United States of America, then known as , African Lodge #459 and now, Prince Hall, showed that this was not a common man in his time however one who possessed a thirst for organizing and saw through establishing African Lodge #459, that the tenets of which African Lodge has as its principles of self-development and improvement could ultimately become a pillar within African-American community and now has been in existence for well over 200 years. In its beginning phases, African Lodge #459 produced some of the 'firsts' in developing the institution of the Black church such as Richard Allen, founder of the African Methodist Episcopalian denomination, John Marrant , the first African-American ordained priest , gives example of the extraordinary men who have come through the ranks of African Lodge in its early beginnings.

I fully support such a long overdue memorial for our beloved Brother Prince Hall and his , much needed, inclusion with the many other commonly referenced names throughout Civil Rights sojourn and to justly place him as the main root of what we continue to address and seek resolve in this day and that is social justice for all people.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Cornel West