

CITY OF OAKLAND



CITY HALL • ONE CITY HALL PLAZA • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Office of the Mayor
Elihu M. Harris
Mayor510 238-3141
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November 2, 1993

Pastor Jynona Norwood
Jonestown Memorial Wall
P.O. Box 420207
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Pastor Norwood and Friends,

Thank you for your kind letter, inviting me to attend the 15th Year Annual Memorial Tribute to commemorate the victims of Jonestown Guyana. I sincerely regret that I am not able to attend this occasion, due to a prior commitment; however, as Mayor of Oakland, my heart reaches out to every family, friend and survivor who lost loved ones on that sad day. I send my sympathy to all who were left behind to grieve and pray for the healing process to continue.

The challenging work of the Family Christian Cathedral to help us remember that unempowered communities are an easy prey to cults is needed. Their efforts help us realize the ever present danger that cults present. Whenever a person is stripped of personal integrity and responsibility, there can be no true spiritual growth. Let not us forget the tragedy at Jonestown or the recent one at Waco, Texas. Public awareness is necessary so that destructive cults do not thrive in our society.

Violent cults diminish the ability of people to be free thinking and spiritually strong community members. People's valuable talents are wasted that are sorely needed in empowered communities. It is comforting to see the community leadership shown by the Family Christian Cathedral and the Jonestown Advisory Committee. I support the construction of the Jonestown Memorial Wall to commemorate the Jonestown tragedy. This is an important issue and I will help in every way to make the memorial Wall a lasting reminder so that these men, women and children have not perished in vain.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elihu M. Harris".

ELIHU M. HARRIS
Mayor