Sent: Thu, 18 Jun 2009 12:32:46 -0400
From: Desiree Rogers [redacted]
To: "Armbruster, Sally" <sally_armbruster@who.eop.gov>
Bcc: "Armbruster, Sally" <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=sally_armbruster">
Subject: Fwd: Letter to The White House
white_house_letter.doc
OSSIE DAVIS.doc

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

P6/b(6)

From: "Linda Johnson Rice" <lrice@ebony.com>
Date: June 18, 2009 12:25:00 PM EDT
To: [redacted]
Subject: Fw: Letter to The White House

Des, I have this inquiry from Janette Dates, Dean of the John H Johnson School Of Communications at Howard University.

Can I say that I have forwarded this for your office to review? Should you pass this on to someone else? If so, let me know who it passes on to.

Please advise...
Love ya,
Linda

From: Helena Boyd
To: Linda Johnson Rice
Sent: Mon Jun 15 15:09:46 2009
Subject: FW: Letter to The White House

FYI

Helena T. Boyd

--
Helena T. Boyd
Assistant to the Chairman & CEO
Johnson Publishing Company, Inc.
820 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605
Phone: 312/322-9369
Fax: 312/322-2609

Email: hboyd@ebony.com

------ Forwarded Message
From: "Dates, Jannette L." <jdates@Howard.edu>
Date: Mon, 15 Jun 2009 15:49:55 -0400
To: 'JPC' <hboyd@ebony.com>
Conversation: Fwd: Letter to The White House
Subject: FW: Fwd: Letter to The White House

Dear Ms. Boyd:
Ms. Rice asked that I re-send this to her. Please pass it on. Thanks!
JD

From: Dates, Jannette L.
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2009 2:00 PM
To: 'JPC'
Subject: FW: Fwd: Letter to The White House

Dear Ms. Rice:

I have attached a letter that was sent yesterday to President Obama's social secretary, Ms. Desiree Rogers. You mentioned that she is a dear friend of yours--and as we gear up to become more visible and raise the funds that we discussed--we hope that we can have your support for this request. In addition, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee are so deserving of this recognition and we believe their story needs to be heard. I will call your office to follow up on this next step as we continue to move forward.

Sincerely,

Jannette L. Dates

------ End of Forwarded Message

April 22, 2009

Ms. Desiree Rogers
Social Secretary
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Desiree,

This summer, during the 35th Anniversary of Harlem Week, Howard University's John H. Johnson School of Communications will honor the legendary *First Family of Hollywood; Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee*, with a film festival in their name that will recognize their extensive humanitarian efforts and contributions to those in need, both domestically and internationally. In so doing, as members of the Board of Visitors of the School, we hope to secure funding for a new modern hi-tech building that will house the John H. Johnson School of Communications at Howard University. During Harlem Week, we will announce the dedication of a wing in honor of Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee in the School of Communication's new building. Mr. Davis was a member of our board and served as the inaugural Annenberg Professor of Communications in the School. Coincidentally, he spent the last night of his life with us when he co-hosted a Broadway fundraiser for Howard alumni to attend the August Wilson play *Gem of The Ocean*. It was a tremendously successful event that symbolized his life of service to the very end.

Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee epitomize the public service that President Barack Obama inspires and expects from the citizens of the United States. Ossie and Ruby also exemplify the positive family values of our President and First Lady. For these reasons, we are also planning to bestow The Ossie Davis /Ruby Dee Humanitarian Service Award to a stellar group of candidates in the fields of communications and entertainment.

Because Ossie and Ruby received the President's National Medal of the Arts in 1995 during the Clinton administration, we thought it would be fitting for the Ossie Davis/Ruby Dee Humanitarian Service Awards Ceremony to take place at The White House. We suggest that it take place during the week of July 27th. Arrangements have been made for this event to be taped by WHUT, a PBS member station licensed to Howard University. The event would be broadcast on WHUT and offered to PBS stations nationwide. I have enclosed a fact sheet for your review and consideration which outlines our awards program. We would appreciate the opportunity to provide you with a more formal proposal next week should this event be of interest to the White House. In the meantime, if you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact me by email [redacted] or by phone [redacted]
Thank you, Desiree.

P6/b(6)

Kind regards,

Jeff Burns Jr.

OSSIE DAVIS / RUBY DEE HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AWARD CANDIDATES

1. President Barack H. Obama/ First Lady Michelle Obama

2. Emilio Estefan/ Gloria Estefan

3. Bill Gates/ Melinda Gates

4. Earl G. Graves, Sr./ Barbara Graves

5. Geoffrey Holder/ Carmen deLavallade

6. Samuel Jackson/ LaTanya Richardson Jackson

7. Earvin "Magic" Johnson/ Earleatha "Cookie" Johnson

8. Tom Joyner/ Donna Richardson Joyner

9. Matthew Knowles/ Tina Knowles

10.Alonzo Mourning/ Tracy Mourning

11. Will Smith/ Jada Pinkett Smith

12. Denzel Washington/ Paulette Washington

13. Bill and Camille Cosby

Proposed Masters of Ceremonies:

Tom Brokaw, HU Board Member

Al Roker/ Deborah Roberts Roker

Special Guests:

Actors/Entertrainers who've worked with Ossie and Ruby like Sir Sidney Poitier, Harry Belefonte, Rosie O'Donnell, Spike Lee, Halle Berry, Oprah, etc.

Entertainment:

Nicholas Ashford & Valerie Simpson Ashford