



**RAS J. BARAKA**

MAYOR

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

October 20, 2022

Friends of Keeping the Lights On After School

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the people of Newark, it is my pleasure to congratulate everyone participating in Lights On Afterschool today, a national celebration of after school programs.

As a 22-year educator in the Newark Public Schools and our city's Chief Executive, I know the importance of how afterschool programs provide children in grades K-12 with safe and engaging learning experiences; opportunities for adults to serve as volunteer educators; and connect parents, schools, and community partners with supporting the growth of our children.

In our city, the United Way of Greater Newark and NJSACC: The Statewide Network for New Jersey's Afterschool Programs, leads in creating and supporting innovative opportunities for our youth to reengage in their learning and connect with caring adults and peers in a safe and supportive environment. I congratulate them on their work.

Our youth need support, guidance, and mentoring. Our city's afterschool programs and their dedicated, compassionate, and hard-working family does that every day. Your achievements are seen in the lives of the many youth that have benefited from your work. Afterschool programs keep Newark moving forward, and we are proud of everyone who supports them.

All the best for a joyous and memorable celebration!

Sincerely yours,

Ras J. Baraka  
Mayor