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16-12 Grants Committee

20-02 (18)

20-03 (27)

20-04 (27)

20-05 (13)

20-06 (6)

20-07 (17)

20-08 (9)

20-09 (8)

2020 Reimagining

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Working for children is always essential

Judge Aretha Blake [bounce@bounce.myngp.com] on behalf of Judge Aretha Blake [arethablakeforjudge@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 03, 2020 2:05 PM

To: Steve Johnston

Greetings:

Oh, how our world has changed! Six months ago, on March 3rd, the first case of COVID-19 was reported in North Carolina. We are in unprecedented times, and I remain thankful for the opportunity to serve Mecklenburg County and its children and families as a Juvenile Court Judge.

As we approach Labor Day, I would like to personally thank the broad array of essential stakeholders who met and continue to meet the needs of court-involved youth.

Thank you to all essential team members!

Our ability to transition many services to a virtual platform proved vital. Throughout the pandemic, I have been able to...

- Work diligently to ensure that the academic needs of **children** in foster care in the remote learning environment are addressed
- Preside over cases involving **juveniles** in delinquency court and abuse, neglect, and dependency court
- Provide support and accountability to **parents** in Family Treatment Court with substance use disorders, mental health needs, and domestic violence counseling needs
- Engage with **court and stakeholder partnership groups** responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating remote hearing protocols
- Educate the **community** about support resources for

children and families and the availability of Court services

- Advocate for **social justice for all** through civic volunteerism and professional leadership initiatives

I am reminded of the sacrifices of all workers and the personal losses that many members of our community have experienced. This Labor Day, I honor, celebrate, and thank you for your fortitude, perseverance, and courage during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Judge Aretha Blake

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Election Day - November 3, 2020

Visit the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections for important dates and information


mecknc.gov/BOE

Paid for by the Aretha V. Blake for District Court Judge Committee

4833 Berewick Town Center Dr. Unit E-216 Charlotte, NC 28278

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