

Boston Rosa Parks Human Rights Day Committee
c/o USW L. 8751
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Thomas Payzant
Superintendent of Schools
Office of the Superintendent
26 Court St., 7th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Superintendent Payzant;

We are calling on you to declare the closing of all Boston Public Schools on December 1st, 2005 in honor of the Late Civil Rights pioneer, Mrs. Rosa Parks. December 1st, marks the 50th anniversary of her arrest for refusing to give her seat to a white passenger during the dehumanizing segregation policies of the Jim Crow south.

We call on you to join with The Boston City Council, who, in unity with the African American, Latino, Haitian, Cape Verdean, Native American and other communities, has passed a resolution that “encourages all businesses in the City of Boston, both public and private to either close on Dec 1, 2005 or allow the many workers and students in the city who will want to attend the Rosa Parks commemoration event taking place during normal business hours, to take the day off, or leave work and school early with impunity.”

Truly Mrs. Parks in her uncompromising stand for human dignity and justice has inspired all citizens and opened a new era of progress and civil responsibility in this country and throughout the world. It is because of her courage and the symbol she represents in defying the worst in American history, we implore you to declare on December 1, 2005 the closing of Boston Public Schools in honor of Rosa Parks Human Right Day.

Sincerely,

Chuck Turner
Boston City Council

Tony Van Der Meer
Prof. UMASS Boston

Bishop Filipe Teixeira, OFSJC
Diocese of Saint Francis of Assisi, CCA

Steve Gillis
President, USW L. 8751