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Today Jamila Love Williams was sentenced. Ms. Williams was formerly a teacher at University Prep Academy in Grand Rapids Michigan. Unfortunately she misused her position of authority and trust to prey on vulnerable boys who were her students at that school and to engage in criminal sexual misconduct against them. As a result she was prosecuted and recently entered a plea to four counts of criminal sexual misconduct which led to her sentencing today.

In a number of situations, Ms. Williams used University Prep's school facility to sexually abuse her victims. In addition, she used her position as math teacher or advisory teacher or both to groom, manipulate and take advantage of boys whom she targeted for her predatory behavior.

We are happy that Ms. Williams has had to be accountable in the criminal justice system today for her crimes against children. However, we also feel strongly that University Prep Academy needs to be held accountable for the harm inflicted on these boys.

In our opinion, University Prep has been deliberately indifferent to the victimization of these children, and there are a number of questions which

University Prep should answer for these mothers whose children have been victimized.

We want to know the full story of what the school knew and when they knew it. How is it that a teacher was able to sexually abuse so many children over a period of time at University Prep?

Were University Prep administrators deliberately indifferent to the child sexual abuse because the victims of the abuse were boys and the perpetrator of the abuse was female?

Were race and harmful and false sexual stereotypes of young African American males factored in the schools deliberate indifference to the victims in this case?

Was University Prep more concerned about protecting their reputation than it was about protecting children? Is University Prep hoping and praying that these mothers will quietly go away and not insist on answers to these important questions?

If that is the hope of University Prep I can assure them that this matter is not concluded today. The mothers who have come to us for support will not rest until they obtain answers to their questions and a full measure of justice for their children.

We will not permit University Prep to continue to do business as usual while the lives of these children and these mothers have been forever altered by the significant harm inflicted on them by a University Prep teacher.

A school should be a safe place for children, not a place where teachers can betray the trust of parents and children by abusing their position of power.

We want University Prep to conduct a full, fair and independent investigation into this matter and provide answers not only to these mothers but also to the public.

Will they do so or will they try to hide the truth from the people of Grand Rapids who should have a right to know how this could have happened to so many children at University Prep and how it could have taken place for such a lengthy period of time.

We want to know how children who had every right to be protected by their teacher and school were victimized by them instead. Will University Prep try to hide the answers from the public or will they be accountable for what has occurred?

We look forward to University Prep's response.

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