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Official Statement

April 18, 2013

Re: Trademark Infringement Lawsuit Filed

A serious and ongoing dispute has developed over the mission and governance of the Takoma Academy Alumni Association. It started in 2012 when Henry Pittman and Manny Montero created an independent corporation using the name Takoma Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (“TAAA, Inc.”). This corporation is not now, nor has it ever been, affiliated with, sponsored by or endorsed by Takoma Academy. TAAA, Inc.’s mission and governance are not approved by Takoma Academy, nor has Takoma Academy authorized TAAA, Inc. to raise funds for the school.

After many months of attempting to resolve this conflict and asking them to stop using the school’s name and likeness, they instead informed us that *they* filed for federal registration of the name “Takoma Academy Alumni Association.” In our judgment their action is highly inappropriate. We simply cannot permit an independent group, not affiliated with the school or sponsored by the school, to use the names “Takoma Academy” or “TA.” Therefore, we filed a lawsuit asking a court of law to intervene.

The lawsuit is against the newly-formed corporation, TAAA, Inc. and Mr. Pittman. Among other things, it claims that TAAA, Inc. and Mr. Pittman are improperly using the names “Takoma Academy” and “TA” and that they are liable for trademark infringement and unfair competition. The suit further alleges that their actions have caused confusion among TA’s supporters.

As stewards of Takoma Academy, we must act in the best interest of the school’s administration, students, alumni and constituents who have a vested interest in this vital educational ministry. We value our alumni association because it helps to ensure that TA’s legacy and future remain strong. We are thankful for the alumni who actively support their alma mater and our desire is to see all alumni working in harmony once again.

We solicit your prayers in this matter as we attempt to resolve this issue. In the meantime, we will share updates at www.pcsda.org/trademark. Inquiries may be referred to Keith Hallam, Vice President for Education, at keithh@pcsda.org or (540) 886-0771.

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