



October 1, 2018

Administrator Caren Harp
810 Seventh Street NW
Washington, DC 20531

RE: Gang Suppression Planning Grants Program

Dear. Ms. Harp,

On behalf of the City of Fort Pierce I am submitting this letter of support the application for the Gang Suppression Planning Grants Program.

The City of Fort Pierce has struggled with high levels of youth gang violence, but since 2014, the City, and the Fort Pierce Police Department, in collaboration with other community partners, has invested significant time and resources to implement a comprehensive, evidence-based, and long-term approach to combating youth gang-violence in Fort Pierce through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model.

Currently in its fourth year, and serving over 100 youth, the program is in a critical stage where the target community is starting to reap the benefits in terms of gang crime reduction, improved public safety, increased collaboration among agencies and more effective policies, as well as positive changes in individual clients.

Through focused and collaborative intervention and suppression strategies, the initiative has significantly reduced community violence and improved the perception of safety in the target community. Between 2014 and 2017 overall violent crime in Fort Pierce has gone down 32%, gun-related crimes have dropped 34% and gang-involved violent crime has decreased 56%.

The City of Fort Pierce currently employs the project coordinator of RTVYI and provides office and meeting space for the program, and support in the form of grants to the initiative for essential programming.

As the Mayor of Fort Pierce, and Co-Chair of the Roundtable of Saint Lucie County I am fully committed to work with the Police Department, the Roundtable of Saint Lucie County, local leaders, service providers, and community partners to continue the reduction in gang-related violent crime. Our shared framework of strategic and coordinated delivery of services and opportunities along with our prevention, intervention, and targeted suppression efforts are showing concrete results. We continue to reach out for additional local support and develop sustainability as a result of our early positive outcomes.

Sincerely,

Linda Hudson, Mayor