



COUNTY OF ALBANY
PROBATION DEPARTMENT

35 CHAPEL STREET

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207-2197

ADMINISTRATION 487-5200 - INTAKE/DIVERSION 487-5270

FAMILY COURT UNIT 487-5300 - ADULT DIVISION 487-5230

FAX NUMBERS: (518) 487-5204 or (518) 487-5269

MICHAEL G. BRESLIN
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

PATRICA L. AIKENS
DIRECTOR

March 21, 2001

Mayor Gerald D. Jennings
Albany City Hall
Albany N.Y. 12207

Dear Mayor Jennings,

For the past two to three years our Probation Officers have been struggling with what they believed to be escalating violence being committed by local youth who were involved in organized gang activity. As a result of these concerns we began networking with certain members of the Albany Police Department who too were dealing with these serious issues.

In recent months, however, we have crossed paths with Mr. Ron "Cook" Barrett affiliated with Sherry Townsend's Department of Youth and Recreation Services. Ron has made himself available to Probation Officers sometimes on a moments notice when the Officer has concern regarding a juvenile client who may be gang involved. Ron has provided our Officers with formal gang awareness training and employees from other Albany County Departments (Health, Social Services, Mental Health) have participated in these sessions. Ron has also been available for a number of gang related informational meetings with our Probation Officers. As a result of Ron's efforts our Officers have been educated as to not only how to identify gang activity but how to deal with this growing problem.

Ron Barrett is a talented individual with considerable intelligence, expertise and passion in dealing with a hard to reach population of children who may otherwise feel disenfranchised and unimportant. Our Department's association with Ron has truly enhanced our ability to be effective as Probation Officers. Thank you for sharing this valuable employee with us.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Fitzsimmons
Deputy Director