



*State of New York  
Family Court Chambers  
Schenectady, New York 12305*

*Jo Anne Assini  
Judge*

October 3, 2002

Ron "Cook" Barrett  
Gang Prevention Coordinator  
City of Albany  
175 Central Avenue  
Albany, New York 12206

Dear Mr. Barrett:

On behalf of all of those who heard your presentation on September 20, 2002 here in Schenectady, I want to express my sincere thanks for giving us a few hours of your valuable time. We all came away with a much greater understanding of what has been going on right in front of us for so long! I feel as if you opened my eyes to a new, and terrifying, world. Your presentation was superb; your energy, passion for this subject, obvious love and concern for the youth you serve, and your commitment to making the world a better place are inspiring.

I saw the red and blue workboots at the mall and a red baseball cap with a "B" and stars on either side of it at the Christmas Tree Shop. Even my seventy-five year old mother has now learned about gang colors and symbols just from going shopping with me.

Whenever I have shared some of the things you taught me, the response has been the same; "oh, all we have are wanna be's..." I tell them that unfortunately and sadly, that is probably not so.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jo Anne Assini".

Jo Anne Assini  
Family Court Judge

JAA/rac

cc: Gerald D. Jennings, Mayor, City of Albany  
Sheri Townsend, Commissioner