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April 2, 2008

Gerald D. Jennings
Mayor, City of Albany
Albany City Hall
24 Eagle Street, Room 102
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Mayor Jennings:

On March 31st I invited Ronald "Cook" Barrett from your Capital Region Gang Prevention Department to speak to my Social Work Practice class at The Albany State University School of Social Welfare. He was the most dynamic, knowledgeable and passionate speaker that I have seen in many years. The positive impact he had on future social workers was immeasurable. The students, as well as I, not only came away from this experience more educated about gang culture, but were impressed with how concerned and progressive your administration has been to combat this social issue.

In addition to my role as Adjunct Instructor at SUNY Albany and St. Rose College, I have worked in the drug and alcohol treatment field in the Capital District for 25 years. Cook's reputation as a presenter, leader and expert in the area of gang culture and violence is impeccable and widespread. He is truly an Albany treasure.

Sincerely,

James W. Jeffreys|