



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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**March 4, 2009**

**Mr. Ronald "Cook" Barrett**  
**Gang Prevention Coordinator**  
**New York State Prevention Center**  
**Albany, NY 12206**

**Dear Mr. Barrett:**

**We strongly support your pursuit of grant monies to continue the outstanding work of the New York State Gang Prevention Center program and specifically your efforts in reaching out to communities across the country promoting gang awareness. Your message still resonates with the police officers, community leaders, and educators in attendance at our two Gang Summits not only because of the knowledge you imparted, but because of the passion with which you delivered the message.**

**Your information on gang identifiers, the allure of the gang culture, and recruitment methods; as well as specific prevention and interdiction programs spoke directly to what the audience needed to hear. It provided law enforcement, educators, and others on the front line with the proper tools to begin combating gangs and their influence within their communities. Moreover, it spoke to the need for collaborative effort in addressing these issues. Your personal experience with troubled youth, parents, and gang members certainly added credibility to your remarks and made the gang problem a reality to attendees.**

**Over the past few months, we have heard from a number of Summit attendees who expressed their thanks to us for bringing you to West Virginia. They consistently state that you opened their eyes to potential problem areas within their communities and schools, and provided a base from which to begin addressing those issues. Their words are a testament to your program's success, and we truly hope you will be able to continue your outstanding efforts in gang awareness and prevention. We hope to see you back in West Virginia soon. Keep up the great work.**

**Sincerely,**

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**Sharon L. Potter**  
**United States Attorney**