

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3204

June 18, 2007

Mr. Domingo S. Herraiz  
Director  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
United States Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
810 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Mr. Herraiz:

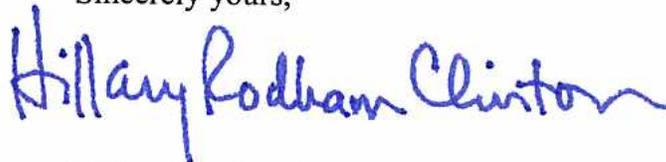
I am pleased to write to you today in support of the Rochester Police Department's application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for funding under the Edward Byrne Memorial Discretionary Grant. The funds from this grant will be used to establish the SAFE Rochester Initiative (SRI), which through the implementation of a comprehensive and coordinated program, is intended to substantially reduce the number of crimes committed in the City of Rochester.

The annual rate of homicide in Rochester has been between forty and fifty-five cases per year for the past four years in spite of a hard-fought struggle to control gun-related crimes and has led to a notable decline in economic development, property values, and overall citizen satisfaction. These crime issues persist today. Recently the City of Rochester experienced eight shooting deaths in as many days. The residents of Rochester cannot live and work under these conditions.

The funds from this grant will take a decisive step toward resolving these crime issues. The newly established SRI will join together city leadership and the Rochester Police Department together to create a number of crime prevention programs. These programs include Police and Citizens Together Against Crime (PAC-TAC), a police-citizen program that will immediately address neighborhood crime by training and supplying volunteers in crime prevention; and the PAL mentoring program which will help deter crime in the long-term by bringing together trained mentors and high-risk children from crime-stricken neighborhoods.

The City of Rochester has embarked on an aggressive program to resolve crime issues and assistance from the federal government is critical in helping them meet this goal. I ask that you give this nomination your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Kate Beale at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely yours,



Hillary Rodham Clinton