

April 16, 2019

Mr. Steve Mitchell, CEO
Opportunity Industrialization Center
815 Fruitvale Blvd.
Yakima, WA 98902

Re: OJJDP Mentorship Grant
Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Yakima is a full service municipality providing services that include municipal court, public safety, general government, and legal services. These systems work cohesively to deliver high-level services and initiatives to maintain an inclusive, safe and secure community for residents and visitors. Yakima is a diverse and hard-working community, but also one that, like many other mid-sized cities (our population is approximately 93,000), has poverty, crime, and gang activity.

Through the City's work engaging the community about public safety, and evaluating the youth programming currently offered within the City, we have identified a growing need for comprehensive mentor programs aimed at reducing juvenile delinquency through mentorship, rehabilitation, and counseling. We are in full support of the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Washington's application to the United States Department of Justice – Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention to implement the mentor program in our underserved and underrepresented communities. Our commitment to this project is an extension of our existing partnership of coordinating youth services in the community.

The City is committed to:

- Assist in the participant recruitment process by providing adjudicated youth information and referrals through the City's School Resource Officers, for the purpose of enrolling students;
- Collaborate and assist in program development and outreach activities;
- Help OIC with mentor training, as appropriate; and
- Leverage and coordinate the City's Gang Intervention and Prevention Task Force grants and opportunities with OIC's mentoring program, where such coordination would be beneficial to either the mentors or juveniles participating in the mentor program.

Again, we are committed to working with OIC to develop and implement this program and hope they will receive the grant.

Sincerely,

Ms. Kathy Coffey
Mayor
City of Yakima

Mr. Cliff Moore
City Manager
City of Yakima