



CITY OF NEW ORLEANS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION

C. RAY NAGIN
MAYOR

LINDA SANTI
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

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To Whom It May Concern

This is to introduce Mr. Fred Radtke, an indefatigable campaigner to rid New Orleans of graffiti. Mr. Radtke has educated himself on gang markings and other symbols used by those who would deface our public and private buildings, signage, and other infrastructure elements. He has used the knowledge he has gained to keep law enforcement, civic groups, and neighborhood associations abreast on the challenges represented by graffiti throughout the community.

Mr. Radtke has been particularly effective in keeping schools and schoolyards free of intimidating graffiti. His organization, Operation Clean Sweep, has worked with young people and other community volunteers to make schools environments safe havens conducive to learning rather than extensions of gang and other territorial strife.

The Orleans Criminal Justice Council has appreciated his devoted attendance to our meetings where he has generously updated Council members on the amount and type of graffiti one finds in various neighborhoods. This type of "hands-on" reporting is helpful to both law enforcement officials in appreciating the challenges they face and to the human services representatives who attend Criminal Justice Council meetings. Mr. Radtke is to be commended for all his time and devotion to making the city a cleaner and less intimidating place. The accomplishments he has been able to obtain are all the more remarkable given the severe budgetary restraints under which I know he operates.

Mr. Radtke is looking for funding opportunities to help him continue his work. The Office of Criminal Justice Coordination has looked toward various United States Department of Justice funding streams in an effort to help fund his activities, but the decreasing amounts of funding available from federal sources have not been sufficient to keep our direct-delivery law enforcement programs funded at necessary levels. We hope that his research into community grants, business contributions and other fund-raising opportunities will be fruitful. If a public partnership is desirable for awarding of any grants or other funds, the Office of Criminal Justice Coordination stands ready to fill that role for Operation Clean Sweep.

Sincerely,

Linda Santi
Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Coordination