



March 21, 2016

To: Anan Abu-Taleb, Mayor, Village of Oak Park  
Cara Pavlicek, Manager, Village of Oak Park  
Catherine Adduci, President, Village of River Forest  
Eric Palm, Manager, Village of River Forest  
Jeff Weissglass, Board President, Oak Park and River Forest High School  
Dr. Steven Isoye, Superintendent, Oak Park and River Forest High School  
Jim Gates, Board President, Oak Park Elementary District 97  
Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent, Oak Park Elementary District 97  
Patrick Meyer, Board President, River Forest Elementary District 90  
Dr. Edward Condon, Superintendent, River Forest Elementary District 90  
Paul Aeschleman, Board President, Park District of Oak Park  
Jan Arnold, Executive Director, Park District of Oak Park  
Russ Roloff, Board President, Park District of River Forest  
Michael Sletten, Executive Director, Park District of River Forest  
Matt Baron, Board President, Oak Park Library  
David Seleb, Executive Director, Oak Park Library  
Claudette Zobel, Board President, River Forest Library  
Susan Quinn, Interim Library Director, River Forest Library

Fr: F. David Boulanger, Supervisor, Oak Park Township  
Carla Sloan, Supervisor, River Forest Township  
Gavin W. Morgan, Manager, Oak Park Township  
John FS Williams, Youth Services Director, Oak Park and River Forest Townships

Re: Youth Interventionist Intergovernmental Agreement Renewal

The Youth Interventionist program was established in 1996 to address the threat to our youth of gangs, drugs and violence, often fostered by persons from outside our villages. Supported by all 11 taxing units in our two communities, this unique cooperative effort to intervene early with youth at-risk has helped many make better life decisions.

The factors that make this kind of intervention successful are having well-trained youth workers who have the confidence of, and confidential communication with, taxing unit and other social service staff who are the front line observers of youth behavior. The public measure of success is the minimization of gang influence, the quality of response when need arises, and the citizen perception that the community looks after and cares about its youth beyond the school door.

Over the years, the program has evolved with changing youth needs and family involvement with, and response to, youth problems. Intervention is now more concerned with the youth trauma associated with mental illness, substance abuse, and violence, often

extending into the family. These challenges to healthy development can appear in all locations and among all demographics throughout our communities and is best addressed, we believe, by our mutual support and united action.

Each taxing unit's participation in funding the program sends important messages:

- To staff that they can communicate with Interventionists as fellow team members who are accountable to management and ultimately the board of their unit, and
- To both communities that they can be assured of an efficient and truly collaborative effort to address the most challenging threats to healthy youth development.

For almost two decades, renewal of the agreement has been based on partner staff reporting that the Youth Interventionists are helpful and effective, especially in times of special need; that youth clients and their families are assisted through a wide range of services; and that most youth are responsive to the interventionist guidance in meeting the expectations of schools and community. As in the past, Youth Services staff recently presented an Interventionist Annual Report of trends and outcomes to both Councils of Government, and all board members received an email copy of the Report and routinely received monthly interventionist activity summaries.

The current Intergovernmental Agreement is due for renewal July 1, 2016. The updated agreement is attached with a two-year budget increase projected at 1.5%. The agreement language has not changed since the last signing in 2014. While you are encouraged to budget the amount indicated for FY17, Oak Park Township bills only for what is spent, not to exceed the budgeted amount, and strives for efficiencies to reduce costs.

There is one new feature to our partnership: At the request of one unit for inclusion, the Township has decided to add all units to the Township's certificate of insurance as additionally insured.

To bring more clarity to your renewal decision, we stand ready to make a presentation or simply to answer any questions from your board members. Contact Oak Park Township representatives at (708) 383-8005 or the River Forest Township supervisor at (708) 366-2029. To assist in the process of agreement renewal, we would like to have a township representative available when the agreement is on your board agenda.

Our goal for passage and signing by all units is June 15, well in time for implementation July 1. Signing by an authorized unit representative can take place any weekday between 9am and 5pm at the Oak Park Township Office, or Administrative Associate Angela Hill can schedule a time to bring the documents by your office for signing.

We look forward to a continuation of this 20-year commitment to our youth, family, and community welfare.

Attached in separate PDFs:

Interventionist Program Description  
2016-2018 Intergovernmental Agreement

Cc: Angela Hill, Administrative Associate, Oak Park Township