

March 28, 2006

The Honorable Corrine Brown  
2444 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Brown:

The City of Gainesville is pleased to support the Black on Black Crime Task Force's request for \$150,000 in federal funds for the Reichert House Youth Academy. The funds would be used to expand the new Reichert House facility to include a wing for a Counseling Center and to serve high school students in the Reichert House program.

Reichert House Program. This Program, in existence since 1987, is a nationally unique juvenile crime prevention initiative with an 85% non-recidivism rate. It is part of the City of Gainesville's "*Regional Continuum of Juvenile Crime Prevention Initiative – Programs and Services to High-Risk Youth*", inaugurated in 1996. This initiative has received Special Purpose Grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, which recognizes it as a nationally unique and promising approach to reducing juvenile delinquency and crime.

The Reichert House Program served approximately 150 high-risk African American youth in 2005. A combination of Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development CDBG funds and local commitments and contributions provided the additional \$459,000 to complete the construction and equipping of the new Reichert House facility.

If we may be of any assistance with your consideration of this request by the Black on Black Crime Task Force, please contact me or City Manager Russ Blackburn. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pegeen Hanrahan  
Mayor

Cc: Honorable Members, Gainesville City Commission

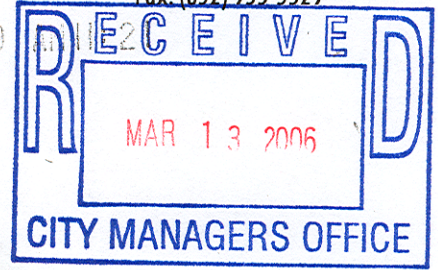


# Black on Black Crime Task Force

Rosa B. Williams, Chair  
Black on Black Crime Task Force  
P.O. Box 2607  
Gainesville, FL 32602

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2006 FEB 29



Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan  
Gainesville City Commission  
PO Box 490  
Gainesville, FL 32602-0490

February 27, 2006

Dear Mayor Hanrahan:

I send this letter as a follow-up to a request that was made to Congresswoman Corrine Brown's office regarding the Reichert House Youth Academy. I asked her office for assistance in securing a federal earmark for \$150,000 that would provide necessary funding for the final stage of Reichert House construction.

The Reichert House is a unique public/private organization that serves a cadre of at-risk youth in Gainesville. As you know, we recently opened Phase One (1) of the new facility on December 7, 2005. Thanks to the support of many individuals and organizations, we are pleased to say that this much needed facility is completely paid for and currently providing the necessary space needed for the Middle School youth's activities, including a computer lab, full-size commercial kitchen and dining area, weight room, and library.

Now, it is our goal to begin the fund raising process that will enable the Black on Black Crime Task Force to open up Phase Two (2) of the building process, which will include creating a Counseling Center and a High School wing for the older at-risk youth in the Reichert House program.

Many of our youth come from backgrounds where counseling is helpful to assist them in becoming productive citizens of the future. Last year, our fund-raising efforts fell short of achieving the amount necessary to complete the final building stage of the site. However, we do have the resources to sustain the structure once it is built.

We are proud to report that the Reichert House program served approximately 150 youth in 2005. Of these youth, at least 80% did not enter the Criminal Justice system.

Now, I am asking if you would write a letter of support to Congresswoman Corrine Brown on our behalf in relation to our request for funding. This show of support would be deeply appreciated. I am asking for residual funds that may be available to fund this request. Using residual funds would not jeopardize any other funds that have previously been earmarked for use in this area. Please send this letter of support to me directly by using the address located at the top of this letterhead. I will personally see to it that your letter will get to Congresswoman Corrine Brown.

I close by saying I feel it is better to invest in our youth today than to pay for their mistakes tomorrow.

If I can be of further assistance, or if you have any questions related to this request, please don't hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Rosa B. Williams  
Black on Black Crime Task Force  
Chair

cc: Russ Blackburn



cc: [unclear] & [unclear]