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Dennis Greenhouse, Director
Executive Office for Weed and Seed
United States Department of Justice
810 7th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Commitment Letter for Anderson Weed and Seed of Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Mr. Greenhouse:

This letter serves as a commitment of support from the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Indiana for the funding application for the Anderson Weed and Seed Site. The Anderson community suffers from consistently high levels of crime. Todd Phelps, our acting LECC Coordinator, serves on the Anderson Weed & Seed Steering Committee. I serve as a Co-Chair of the Weed & Seed Steering Committee. The Drug Enforcement Agency has assigned a Group Supervisor to serve on the Steering Committee. Interestingly before this DEA agent became an agent he was an Anderson Police Officer so he truly cares about this community, having grown up in Anderson. Other federal law enforcement agencies will be called upon as necessary to implement the strategies for the Anderson Weed & Seed.

The residents of Anderson have played an exceptionally significant role in identifying and planning the Weed & Seed goals and strategies. The Steering Committee has 12 area residents serving as members, making up 33% of the committee. However the number of people who have attended the steering committee meetings, whether they were members of the steering committee or not, has been truly impressive.

In the summer of 2006, the City of Anderson designed and distributed a needs survey to the citizens which resulted in 396 usable responses. The citizens of Anderson have been extremely committed and dedicated to the Weed & Seed process. They have worked for two years to get to the point of submitting an application and have encouraged resident participation. The Steering Committee has conducted a city-wide clean-up, seven community meetings in 2005 and a block party at Mays Park in the target area. In 2006, the Steering Committee demonstrated its commitment to learning more about the strategy and was represented in the Weed & Seed Conference in Birmingham, Alabama, and the Law Enforcement Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The Steering Committee also arranged for 22 of its members to meet with and tour the

Westside Haughville Weed & Seed site. Vans full of Anderson residents and leaders traveled to Indianapolis for a day to learn about the successes and the lessons learned by the Indianapolis site. In July of 2006, the Steering Committee hosted a Town Hall meeting to announce the intent to submit an application for funding. This meeting generated widespread media attention and much enthusiasm for the process and the prospect of becoming an Officially Recognized Site.

The Anderson Weed & Seed strategy proposed, adopted and implemented by the Steering Committee has a high probability of improving the criminal justice system within the community and contains all elements required by the CCDO Director. The Anderson Weed & Seed Steering Committee is capable of implementing the strategy appropriately, and the Anderson community agrees to formulate a timely and effective plan to independently sustain the strategy when CCDO funding is no longer available. Sustainability is a factor this group has been discussing since Day 1. This is a community that sadly has learned many hard lessons due to significant job losses and truly appreciates the importance of sustainability of worthy strategies.

I wholeheartedly support our continuing partnership between the federal law enforcement partners and Anderson Weed and Seed as this group works daily to accomplish their goals to make their neighborhoods safer.

Sincerely,



SUSAN W. BROOKS
United States Attorney
Southern District of Indiana