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- Kinnickinnic River Neighborhood Association

June 21, 2017

Police Chief Edward Flynn
Police Administration Building
749 W. State Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Chief Flynn,

I'm writing to inquire about the status of changes to Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 130 of the Milwaukee Police Department in your effort to achieve certification from the Federal Government for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program by the imposed June 30, 2017 deadline.

I am deeply concerned that this isn't resolved and I want to make sure we are both doing everything we can to retain the Byrne funding, and also protect the residents of, and visitors to, Milwaukee.

Currently, the City of Milwaukee has a positive and constructive approach to dealing with the immigrant community. As a community, we need to be transparent and ensure that any proposed changes to city policy be discussed in the light of day. The Hispanic community, composed of many recent immigrants, is the fastest-growing in the City of Milwaukee and has become a vital part of its social and economic fabric – down to the neighborhood level. I am troubled that whatever revisions may have been considered to this SOP have been undertaken without a single community meeting, hearing, or listening session.

I hope you share my goal of retaining certification for the Byrne Grant while at the same time giving residents of our community confidence they will be treated fairly and respectfully by our police force. I believe the current policy is the right one, but if it is found to need amending in order to retain our Byrne Grants, I stand ready to discuss needed changes. It seems time is running short.

I know firsthand the challenges of balancing the City's budget and our many competing needs. I also know that the resources provided by the Byrne program are critical to preserving community safety.

Police Chief Flynn

June 21, 2017

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I am very proud of the partnership between the City of Milwaukee and the community to ensure that all Milwaukee residents are treated justly by law enforcement officers, no matter their immigration status. Any change that would undo these efforts would not be acceptable. By the same token, not addressing the need to secure Byrne funding would be unacceptable.

Please be assured of my willingness to work with you and all other interested parties in good faith towards resolving this matter. If I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Ald. José G. Pérez
Alderman, 12th District

cc: Board of Fire and Police Commissioners
Office of Mayor Barrett

SI USTED TIENE UNA PREGUNTA O SOLICITA TRADUCCIÓN SOBRE ESTA CARTA, FAVOR DE COMUNICARSE AL 414-286-2861

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