



March 5, 2015

Ohio Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

To the Community Connectors Grant Selection Committee:

I am pleased to write you in support of BLOC Ministries grant application for their BLOC Afterschool Mentoring Project and their work in the community.

As the Cincinnati Police Department commander in the neighborhoods where BLOC Ministries focuses their outreach efforts, I am well acquainted with BLOC's work in Cincinnati's under-served communities specifically in East, West and Lower Price Hill. This noteworthy organization currently administers a variety of successful programs in these neighborhoods including: tutoring, arts programs, job and life skills training, holistic fitness programs, and revitalizing neglected buildings to repurpose them for community usage.

The Community Connectors grant funding will be used to increase the quality of life in challenging neighborhoods which currently make up over 30% of the City of Cincinnati's demand for police services. When the quality of life improves in a community, crime and disorder decrease and residents feelings of ownership and pride substantially increase.

I have seen BLOC at work restoring neighborhoods and partnering with the community to turn around troubled locations and I look forward to assisting their continuing efforts in the afterschool mentoring of at risk youth.

I strongly urge your support of BLOC Ministries grant application for their BLOC Afterschool Mentoring Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel W Gerard".

Captain Daniel W. Gerard
District Three Commander
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