city of CINCINNATI POLICE

March 10, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

As a veteran officer for nearly 30 years, I know how effective mentoring programs for higher risk children can be. I am fully aware of Ms. Patricia McCollum's proposed "Don't Count Me Out" campaign to match police officers with children in foster care for mentoring and fully support her efforts.

There are police officers within the Cincinnati Police Department and neighboring municipalities that may wish to volunteer to mentor a child in foster care. I am more than happy to support her in the recruitment efforts by encouraging other police departments to participate.

I understand the "Don't Count Me Out" proposal embodies the five Community Connectors Core Principles:

- Setting goals to be prepared for 21st Century Careers
- Building character
- Developing pathways to achievement
- Building resiliency
- Believing in a positive future

I admire Ms. McCollum's work in the Cincinnati community and would be pleased to see a successful award of the Community Connectors Grant. You may consider this my formal letter of support. I am available for any questions about any of our current community-police relations initiatives or my role in the proposed Don't Count Me Out campaign. Please not hesitate to contact me with updates on the progress of the "Don't Count Me Out" campaign's application submittal.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Blackwell
Chief of Police
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