

September 12, 2016

Attorney Adviser Yvette Badu-Nimako  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Badu-Nimako:

I write in support of the 2016 Community Oriented Policing (COPS) Hiring Program grant application submitted by the North Chicago Police Department to provide funding for the Public Affairs Office Community Liaison Officer and the expansion of the foot patrol unit through the hiring of three entry-level police officers. This funding will build trust and provide the public with more direct interaction and access to the agency.

The North Chicago Police Department seeks to improve communication, build trust and provide the public with more direct interaction and access to the agency. Foot patrol unit officers are the first to respond to residents' concerns and suspicious circumstances, and provide the agency with the transparency it needs in order to develop lasting trust. Likewise, the incorporation of a full-time Community Liaison Officer will provide necessary interaction with communities, such as LGBT youth, who are in need of greater support. By expanding the workforce, the Department will run a "Meet and Greet Program," to converse with residents at their identified locations, and eventually, it will also incorporate the North Chicago Youth Mentoring program to provide comprehensive guidance and education to school-age children.

If awarded, this COPS funding will benefit the community as a whole through increased interaction and transparency, while also improving safety in North Chicago. For these reasons, I would appreciate your thoughtful and careful consideration of this application. If you should have any further inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Shaun McCabe at my Chicago office at (312) 886-3506.

Sincerely,



Mark Kirk  
United States Senator