From: Mike Rodriguez <mrodriguez@enlacechicago.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2012 9:29 PM
To: Cutrone, Jack <Jack.Cutrone@Illinois.gov>
Cc: Irving, Toni <Toni.Irving@Illinois.gov>
Subject: Meeting Request

Director Cutrone and Dr. Irving,

I would like to formally request a meeting as soon as possible to discuss the NRI Little Village-Pilsen lead agency with both of you. I thank you Director Cutrone for holding off on a decision on our communities lead agency until our discussion.

The fact that we have not been asked back as the Lead Agency is troubling for our organization and for our community. Little Village alone is one of the largest NRI communities and when Pilsen is added totals 125,000 residents. Consolidating our community into another is inequitable to the residents of our neighborhoods. In addition, our standards for reporting excellence, evidence based practices and outcome oriented program design have been well documented and led us to win the 2011 Chicago Neighborhood Development Award for Community Strategy of the Year in Violence Prevention as awarded by LISC Chicago and the Chicago Community Trust. In addition, the same excellence led us to be named the CeaseFire site of the Year in 2011. Just this year, President Barack Obama named me one of 12 Champions of Change across the country, due to our excellent work in Youth Violence Prevention.

I will admit that two of our subcontractors were consistently difficult to deal with and we had plans with IVPA to replace these partners. For context, at the origins of NRI we convened over 20 community partners to determine subcontractors and due to our consistent presence and undeniable leadership in the community on violence prevention, we came to consensus amongst all of our participating entities.

As a member of the Illinois Juvenile Justice Commission and Illinois Disproportionate Justice Impact Study Commission, as appointed by Governor Quinn, I understand and have implemented practices in our organization that are models for positive change consistent with broader efforts. Chicago Public Schools just this year asked our organization to take on Safe Passage programs at additional High School because of our excellence in reporting, calling us 'the top performing community partner in their network'.

I ask you to seriously reconsider your initial decision. We are hard at work documenting all reporting procedures and problems over the last two years and are ready to meet to discuss in full.

Sincerely,
Michael D. Rodríguez, Executive Director
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Enlace Chicago is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of the residents of the Little Village Community by fostering a physically safe and healthy environment in which to live and by championing opportunities for educational advancement and economic development.