November 24, 2004

Professor Deborah A. Ramirez  
Executive Director, Partnering for Prevention  
Northeastern University School of Law  
400 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02115-5000

Dear Professor Ramirez:

Thank you so much for facilitating the Boston Pilot Project and for providing us with a copy of your “Promising Practices” Guide. This Guide will help us to learn more about how other communities have developed partnerships and the training programs necessary to support them. The research you have done will be critical to the national development of this model.

As a member of the Boston law enforcement community, I support the concept of building bridges to the Arab, Muslim and Sikh communities and the general law enforcement community. This type of bridge-building will help us to be strategic and intelligent as we pursue counterterrorism leads and it will help us to prevent and effectively prosecute hate crimes.

Here in Boston, we have always believed that it is easier and more effective to work with communities rather than against them. In some ways this initiative builds upon the Boston Model of Community Policing, as your Guide describes it. In a post-Sept. 11th world, however, this model necessarily focuses on a narrower group and has as its focus the prevention of hate crimes and terrorist attacks. We embrace this model because it will allow us to better understand and work with our Arab, Muslim and Sikh neighbors.

I look forward to continuing to work with your research team on this initiative and hope that our experiences in Boston can one day be shared with the larger law enforcement community.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Kathleen M. O’Toole  
Police Commissioner