



JAN PERRY
COUNCILWOMAN
NINTH DISTRICT

City Council
of the
City of Los Angeles
City Hall

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
CHAIR

CONVENTIONS, TOURISM,
ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY
AND BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
VICE-CHAIR

PUBLIC WORKS
MEMBER

May 13, 2008

Dear Mr. Ron Rubine:

This letter is to acknowledge the outstanding work and the imperative changes brought by your commendable contributions to the children and families of the City of Los Angeles. Common Ground and the Transition Institute have been critical in morphing a culture of piece in South Los Angeles.

Mr. Rubine, for the past six years you have been an integral part of the community, working closely with my office to better the conditions of the people living in the Ninth District of Los Angeles. Prior to witnessing your innovative methods dealing with conflict management and your organizing techniques, there were few programs of substance such as yours that could deal with the immense tension felt at a lot of our schools and public meetings.

Although the success in your program is evident by the manner in which the youth interact with themselves and adults after going through the various inter-group conflict exercises, the tangible results speak for themselves. The drastic reduction in suspensions and the decrease in absences at Santee and Jefferson High Schools highlight the importance of having a comprehensive program along with a committed individual like you servicing the community. The endless community meetings would have been less fruitful without your intervention as facilitator. Your work has helped many children seek post secondary success. Your program also provided an avenue for free expression, while fostering positive self esteem and camaraderie. The love for children you possess and tenacious attitude you bring to all your programs has no parallel.

In closing, I believe that with your passion for changing lives and courage to deal with conflict, you will be successful in all of your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Jan Perry
Councilwoman, Ninth District
JP/ho