

October 20, 2004

Executive Offices
Weed and Seed Program
Washington D. C.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

As the Chair of the only community organization dedicated to increase civic participation in the Municipality of Anchorage, I strongly urge you to fund a Weed and Seed Program in the Mountain View Community Council area.

For several years, two of our neighborhoods – Northeast and Russian Jack – have been recipients of Weed and Seed programs. Working in concert with community organizations, municipal officials and the Anchorage Police Department, the programs have made a significant difference in the affected neighborhoods. Both neighborhoods represent densely populated, mostly tenant-based communities that, due to their economic stratification, have an above-average level of crime. Because of the Weed and Seed Program, this crime level has decreased leading to an increase in property values, greater personal respect within the neighborhoods and an increased sense of neighborhood pride.

The Mountain View Community Council area, adjacent to Northeast and Russian Jack is currently experiencing many of the same social ills. It has a high number of mobile homes and less than an adequate amount of low income housing -- along with a high crime rate.

Speaking for the Federation of Community Councils of Anchorage, I strongly urge you to add the Mountain View neighborhood to the Weed and Seed Program. I, we the community councils, and the citizens of Anchorage understand the powerful influence your program has had and we would like to see Mountain View become another success story for the program.

Sincerely,

Merten Bangemann-Johnson
Chairman, Federation of Community Councils of Anchorage