



August 27, 2008

Michael and Lynette Richards
1029 3rd Street SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

Dear Michael and Lynette:

A hearty thank you to both of you for the time and effort put into your presentations to the City Council on August 20, 2008. Your proposal presents concepts that both identify the problems currently facing our flood-affected residential neighborhoods and proposes solutions to help our citizens and neighbors. Since your presentation, a number of other community leaders have come together to discuss your ideas, and we understand that you have been involved in some of those discussions. The outcomes we all want are complex and will require the commitment, resources, and actions of a number of different organizations.

The Weed & Seed Steering Committee on Thursday afternoon, with you as a new member to the group, has committed the talents of the Americorps/Vista Volunteers to provide organizational support to the effort you describe. This is a good start to a big endeavor. Also on Thursday, the community's Recovery and Reinvestment Coordinating Team discussed your proposal and asked those members with the appropriate resources to further consider how this project could be accomplished. A small group met last Friday morning and reports their confidence in the concepts you present and pledge support to work with you to reach the outcomes we share.

The City of Cedar Rapids, specifically, is pleased to join you and others who commit to implementing these ideas. City staff members are available to assist in pulling together other needed resources. We know this effort will require the participation not only of community resources, but most importantly, the enthusiastic and tireless efforts of our citizens. We share your confidence that the citizens of Cedar Rapids are capable of anything we undertake together, and we look forward to working together to help our neighbors.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay Halloran".

Mayor Kay Halloran on behalf of the
Cedar Rapids City Council