



THOMAS M. MCMAHON
MAYOR

CITY OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA

MAYOR'S OFFICE
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June 2, 2007

Dear friend and colleague:

During my first term in office, one of my top priorities in driving crime statistics down in the City of Reading currently listed as the most dangerous city in Pennsylvania in the 2006 Morgan Quitno report. Under Reading Police Chief William Heim, we have attempted to put a comprehensive crime plan in place which addresses both part 1 crimes and other issues that impact the quality of life for our community.

While I am pleased that Chief Heim's plan is starting to show results (the crime rate is down 35% so far in 2007), there is still more to do under very limited resources. The Reading K9 Unit was disbanded in 2005 due to management and labor issues and a concern for increased funding with budget deficits. In various crime forums and on the streets, we have heard from our citizens that they feel safer and feel that these trained dogs increase the safety of our fine police officers. Out of these public forums some fine people came forward in a desire to raise funds for the reinstatement of the K-9 corps.

It is the Friends of the Reading K9 Unit's vision and belief that this unit can be brought back through private funding and kept in perpetuity through these funds. They've taken on a large and noble task.

I ask you to meet with them and consider making a tax deductible contribution to this very worthy cause. Our hope is to have three working dogs on the streets by the end of 2007. Any assistance that you can give (and continue to provide annually) can help protect the lives of our brave men and women in uniform and lessen the need for deadly force in crisis situations.

I thank you for your consideration of this proposal and am confident that by working together, we will achieve success in the revitalization of Reading.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom McMahon".

Tom McMahon
Mayor

