

# DRAFT

November 27, 2007

U.S. Department Of Homeland Security/FEMA  
Assistance To Firefighters Grant Program  
5th Fl. Techworld Bldg.  
500 C St. SW  
Washington, DC 20472

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Milpitas, we submit this letter in support of the fire department's grant application to explore a pilot program coordinating efforts between police and fire departments to improve fire safety education, deterrence; and, arson investigation programs.

Cross-over between the disciplines creates a unique opportunity to address the serious problem of arson fires. The pilot program will partner police and fire departments, the school district, mental health agencies and juvenile probation officers in a multi-disciplined approach to fire safety, education and fire setter deterrence for juveniles. The combined approach will help to address local issues of fires in schools and serve as a model to decrease juvenile fire setters in the area.

Additionally, the pilot program incorporates use of the County's crime lab with newly designed technology and processes dedicated to the examination of physical evidence, the use of which will increase the conviction rate for the serious crime of arson.

As designed, the pilot program will enhance regional capability to educate, deter and prosecute fire setters. We fully support this cutting edge multi-disciplined approach to tackle an unaddressed issue at a regional level.

Regards,

Jose Esteves  
Mayor, City of Milpitas