



STING

Strike Team Investigative Narcotics Group
496 E Houghton Ave
West Branch MI 48661
TX: 989.345.2304 FAX: 989.345.5666
www.stingnarcotics.com

November 20, 2013

Mark Berdan
Northern Transformation
2389 S. M-76
West Branch, MI 48661

Dear Mr. Berdan:

As a Public Safety department covering Ogemaw, Arenac, Iosco and Roscommon Counties, we are pleased to enter into a cooperative partnership with Northern Transformation for the Promise Zone. This naming will be a significant asset to our community as we seek the Promise Zone Initiative. We will offer supportive assistance or information that is requested.

Our public safety department's goal is to be proactive in its policing and preventing a crime from having to be solved. During calendar year 2012, our task force arrested 188 persons in our area, predominantly for felony drug crimes. One of the greatest contributing factors is unemployment. Many of our suspects state the lack of job opportunities drove them to drug dealing, which is a poor excuse but relevant to the issue. Although proactive law enforcement is essential, it is one area that is routinely reduced when government budgets are cut. We find it difficult to be successful when safety budgets are getting cut. The Strike Team Investigative Narcotics Group recently learned that its budget is being cut by approximately 23 percent. The budget went from \$240,000 10 years ago to just \$93,000 this year. One way to buffer the lack of law enforcement is to put people back to work, giving them hope and opportunity to better themselves.

We pledge our commitment in meeting the goals of the proposed project and agree to participate in the work of the collaborative as it moves forward.

Very truly yours,

Detective Lieutenant Jeff Keister, Unit Commander