

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

April 21, 2011

Mr. James H. Birch II  
Acting Director  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
810 Seventh Street NW  
Fourth Floor  
Washington, DC 20531

Dear Director Birch:

I am writing to request your assistance in reprogramming a Congressional Earmark (2009-D1-BX-0156) in the amount of \$400,000 for the City of Las Vegas, Nevada. The City has expressed an interest in utilizing this earmark for a similar crime prevention effort called Graffiti Abatement Now (GAN). In my view, this use is consistent with the original intent of the earmark.

It is my understanding that copper wire theft was a significant problem for municipalities throughout Southern Nevada, including the City of Las Vegas. According to estimates from the City, copper wire theft from public structures was costing in excess of \$1 million annually. That is why I worked to secure funding for this effort as a part of Public Law 111-8. It is now my understanding that instances of copper wire theft have decreased significantly due to the economic recession. In fact, I am told that in 2010, there were no documented copper wire theft cases occurring on public property in the City limits.

Although instances of crime are lower in the City of Las Vegas, we are seeing an increase in other property crimes, including incidents of graffiti and vandalism. Each year, there are more than 75,000 incidents of graffiti vandalism in Las Vegas. These incidents cost taxpayers more than \$1 million in abatement expenses.

To ensure that the City of Las Vegas may utilize federal resources, I am requesting your assistance in reallocating funds from the City Of Las Vegas Copper Wire Theft Prevention to the City of Las Vegas Graffiti Abatement Now (GAN) project. The GAN program has been a successful partnership between city government and local community groups to mitigate and abate graffiti throughout the City. I am hopeful that the City of Las Vegas can continue to build upon the success of the GAN program with these federal resources.

I appreciate your consideration and assistance with this matter. If you have any questions about this request, please contact George Holman of my staff at (202) 224-5405.

Sincerely,



HARRY REID  
United States Senator