

Richard A. Hite, Chief of Police
50 North Alabama Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204



**Indianapolis Metropolitan
Police Department
City of Indianapolis**

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express our endorsement of Strategies for Youth, which has provided Policing the Teen Brain training for patrol officers and customized an Indianapolis version of the Juvenile Justice Jeopardy game. Strategies for Youth has found a way to bring police and youth closer together, bridging a gap that has widened over the last 20 years for various reasons.

The SFY training educates officers on adolescent brain development and explains that some behaviors are simple phases through which youth pass. The training also offers suggestions to de-escalate situations, thereby decreasing the need to use physical force.

Two Indianapolis businessmen provided funding to replicate Juvenile Justice Jeopardy. They recognized that this game does what schools use to do, and then some. Our youth are rarely taught how to interact with police officers. This game, by simply teaching them how to **behave** and warning of consequences associated with their behavior, has been helpful in changing young people's views of police interaction. This game has truly proven to be a Godsend for us.

Few municipal police departments have the time, resources or expertise to develop such interventions for police and youth--SFY's programs get us exactly what we need. In fact, we are now contemplating Policing the Teen Brain for all officers and replicating the Jeopardy game throughout our City.

I'd be happy to discuss our amazing partnership with Strategies for Youth at any point in the future.

Regards,

James Waters

Assistant Chief of Police

Office: (317) 327-3282

Cell: (317) 964-9318