

# PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY SERVICES

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March 30, 2006

The Honorable Phil Lajoy  
State Representative  
21<sup>st</sup> District  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, Michigan 48909


Dear Representative Lajoy

On behalf of People's Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit, I would like to express our support from the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study. People's Community Services, a United Way Agency, has operated the Delray Neighborhood House in the Delray neighborhood for over 50 years. Our mission is to provide human services to especially needy neighborhoods. We are committed to the Delray Neighborhood as is evidenced our one million dollar expansion of the Delray Neighborhood House to include a new wing and state of the art playground. Because of this investment in our community, we were naturally concerned about the negative impact a new border crossing would have on this most fragile of neighborhoods.

I would like to say at this time that the DRIC study from the start has been transparent and inclusive and sensitive to the needs of both the community and individuals. Clearly, the DRIC study is using the *best practices* available in conducting the study. The study has spent considerable and productive time with community residents visioning how a new border crossing could actually be tied to the redevelopment of Delray, the poorest neighborhood in Detroit.

The alternative to the DRIC process would be a private border crossing development. For a number of years, People's Community Services has been a member of Bridge Watch Detroit. We are well aware of the many negative consequences to the community of the actions of the existing international bridge. This ranges from a private corporation claiming the power of eminent domain to the wholesale purchase of livable homes that then are torn down. We sincerely hope that you will support the DRIC study and also require that any future border crossing be publicly owned. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas Cervenak  
Executive Director



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for the Accreditation of  
Rehabilitation Facilities



United Way Community  
Services Member Agency

The H. Irving Mayson  
Hamtramck Neighborhood Center  
8625 Joseph Campau  
Hamtramck, MI 48212  
(313) 875-1750

Senior Day-Time Center  
Myrick-Perry Facility  
2339 Caniff  
Hamtramck, MI 48212  
(313) 365-6260

Delray Neighborhood House  
420 Leigh Street  
Detroit, MI 48209  
(313) 843-0730