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<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

550 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

October 20, 2011

Judge Michael Nash
The Superior Court – Juvenile Division
201 Centre Plaza Drive, Suite 3
Monterey Park, CA 91754-2158

Dear Judge Nash:

I am the Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. I am writing in support of Steven Angel's proposed research project to the University of California at Los Angeles: *The Reading and Rhythm Program to Enhance Reading and Instruction*.

I have worked with Mr. Angel and the Drumming for Your Life Institute which offers the Life Skills Drumming and the Reading and Rhythm Programs for the last seven years, and I have personally known Mr. Angel for five years.

The Reading and Rhythm Program is a thriving, innovative program that helps improve literacy, motivation, self-esteem and improves behavior in at-risk youth. The rate of success is so notable that I personally advocated an additional contract from the Department of Mental Health's Prevention Early Intervention (PEI) as well as a funding for research project at the University of California at Los Angeles. The project: *The Reading and Rhythm Program to Enhance Reading and Instruction* will demonstrate and document the program's efficacy by collecting and analyzing pilot data.

It is my understanding that the Reading and Rhythm Program has reached out to over 1,200 teachers and almost 5,000 K-12 students in Central and Southern California. They include Barry Nidorf, Los Padrinos, and Central Juvenile Halls and Mendenhall, Jarvis, McNair, Resnick, Munz, Holton, Scudder, and Smith Detention camps.

I highly believe in the success of the Reading and Rhythm Program and support the research by Mr. Angel for the project: *The Reading and Rhythm Program to Enhance Reading and Instruction*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJS' with a stylized flourish.

Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director

MJS:tld