

## CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS



**JOSEPH C. O'BRIEN**  
MAYOR

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**RHONDA BERTHIAUME**  
APPOINTMENT SECRETARY

**ISABEL GONZALEZ**  
CHIEF OF STAFF

**RYAN COONEY**  
CONSTITUENT SERVICES

November 5, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for the Center for Nonviolent Solutions. I strongly support this work because I believe that if we want to build a more peaceful world; we must start by building a culture of peace in all our communities through education, reflection and action. We must seek to teach our children and all our families about the historical, religious, ethnic, and economic causes of conflicts so that we can prevent them in the future.

Too often we think about the issues of peace and conflict resolution as ones that are of international nature and don't have implications for our own communities. As the Mayor of the second largest city in New England, I believe that this is a false notion. Here in our community we struggle with issues of youth and domestic violence, crime, and cultural and racial intolerance. These issues confront our community on a daily basis and have deep financial, communal, and psychological impacts on our whole city.

To address these challenges, I believe that we must develop a broad based effort to teach conflict resolution, violence prevention, and cultural and religious tolerance. We must also build teams of skilled mediators in our schools and in the community at large. Yet, in these difficult economic times our schools and local governments do not have the capacity or resources to accomplish these goals, and that is why the work of the Center for Nonviolent Solutions is so important.

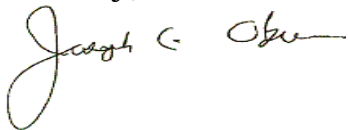
The Center for Nonviolent Solutions has a broad vision and thoughtful plan to undertake a community wide effort to build a culture of peace and tolerance here in the Worcester area. I have great confidence in these efforts because I have worked closely with many of the leaders and board members of the Center for Nonviolent Solutions in my role as an elected official and as a community leader.

The Center for Nonviolent Solutions has already had a very positive impact on the community and with additional support they will be able to have a continued profound and positive impact on our city.

In closing, I have a renewed appreciation and commitment to the work of the Center for Nonviolent Solutions because I have recently become a father of two five-year old children. I want my children to grow up in a more peaceful, tolerant city and world and am confident that the Center for Nonviolent Solutions is working to make this possible.

I thank you in advance for any support you can offer to this work Please feel free to call me at 50-799-1153 if I can answer any questions or provide more information. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph C. O'Brien". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Joseph C. O'Brien