

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 2003

Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Under Secretary Brown:

We write to express our concern over a program supported by FEMA that has paid for “a year-long celebration of trees, gardens and other healing spaces”; a meeting entitled, “Building Trust During War: Dealing with Differences and Embracing Commonality”; Theatre Workshops; a Peace Workshop; an Anger Management program; and, most recently, a “Free Stress Reduction & Personal Growth Class based on Mindfulness Meditation Techniques.”

According to information provided by your office, this program to-date has received \$13.4 million from the federal taxpayers.

According to its website, the program arose post-September 11th, “to help the [Northern Virginia] community heal during these difficult times.” The project, entitled the Community Resilience Project, “offers education, referrals, and counseling services, free of charge, to all individuals and groups within Alexandria City, Arlington County, Fairfax County, and Loudoun County.”
(<http://www.communityresilience.com/>)

Given the other critical demands on FEMA resources, including disaster assistance for losses of life and property and disaster mitigation, we are curious as to why FEMA would provide funding for healing spaces projects and peace workshops. In order that we may better understand this program, please provide us with the following:

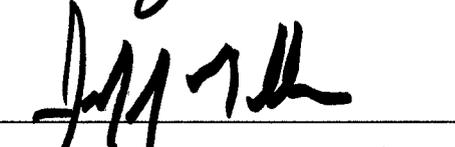
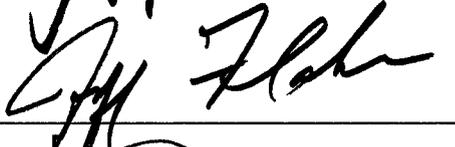
1. The rationale for awarding this funding;
2. The name of the FEMA account from which this Community Resilience program has been funded;
3. The original and any subsequent grant applications or amendments under which the Community Resilience Project was awarded funding;
4. The original and any subsequent documents detailing how the funds that paid for the Community Resilience Project were to be spent;
5. A list of the organizations that are collaborating with or have collaborated with the Virginia Cooperative Extension for the “yearlong celebration of trees, gardens, and other healing spaces,” the amount of federal funds each organization received, and the total cost of and the total federal funds allocated to this project;
6. A list of the presenters and/or panelists from the May 8th, 2003, Alexandria, Virginia, Multicultural Town Meeting entitled “Building Trust During War: Dealing with Differences and Embracing Commonality,” the amount of federal funds each person and/or group received, and the total cost of and the total federal funds allocated to this meeting;

7. A list of the presenters and/or panelists from any of the Alexandria workshops listed in the attachment that were funded through the FEMA Community Resilience program, the amount of federal funds each person and/or group received, and the total cost of and the total federal funds allocated to each workshop; and
8. A list of other similar programs funded in Fiscal Year 2002 or 2003 along with the amount of funds provided by FEMA for each program.

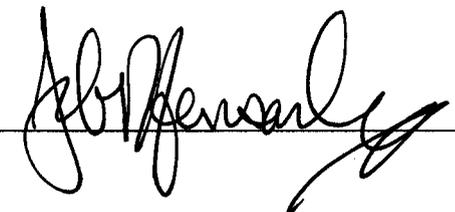
We appreciate your attention to our concerns and we look forward to receiving your reply. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sheila Moloney with the House Republican Study Committee at 202-226-9719.

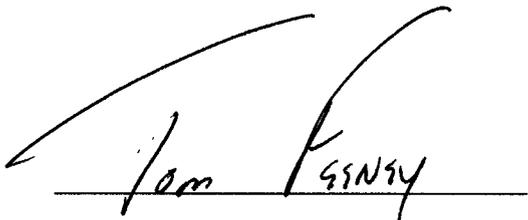
Sincerely,

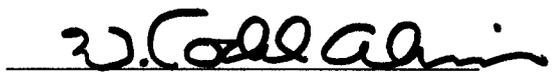


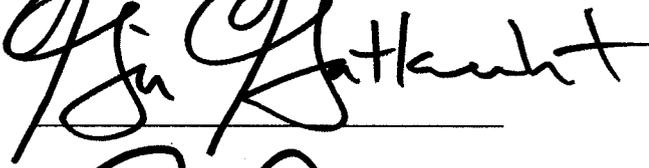
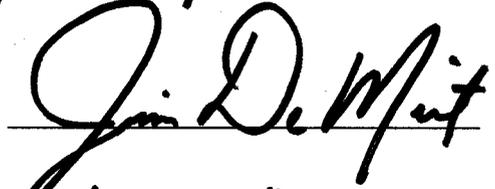











Mark Twain
Sam Johnson
Virgil Lode

Marilyn Musgrave
Steve King
Jim Ryan
