

United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta

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STATEMENT

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United Way Board releases \$250K in funding for Atlanta Area Council, Boy Scouts of America

Action comes after Council presents its plan for meeting the needs of low-income boys

The United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta Board of Directors yesterday voted to release to the Atlanta Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, the remaining \$250,000 of the \$945,107 grant it approved in May 2005.

"The Council has shown us a commitment and a detailed plan to better serve low-income boys across our region, and to be accountable to the community for its efforts," said Paula Rospot Reynolds, United Way board chair. "The challenge of delivering the benefits of scouting to disadvantaged boys is not insignificant, but the Atlanta Area Council has shown thoughtfulness in its plan. The interaction between United Way and the Council has been collaborative and reaffirms the quality of our community investment process," she stated.

In making the announcement, the Board also charged the United Way Community Investments Committee, which oversees grants and grant making, to work with the Council to gain agreement on the precise measures for evaluating the effectiveness of program delivery.

The United Way Board voted last May to withhold the \$250,000 after concerns were raised by United Way volunteers who reviewed the Council's Operation First Class initiative, which seeks to reach low-income boys, particularly those in the inner city. In response, the Council formed the Operation First Class Task Force, and charged it with developing and implementing a plan to more effectively reach and serve these youth.

In addition to the \$250,000 released today, the Boy Scouts have received \$695,107 from United Way, as well as \$337,582 in United Way contributions earmarked directly to it by donors during the 2004 United Way campaign. The total funding released by United Way to the Council for programs for the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 is \$1,036,689.