



Bill Long Joins the Buffalo Promise Neighborhood Project

FEBRUARY 2012

In early 2012 The City of Buffalo was designated to receive Federal grant money under the Buffalo Promise Neighborhood Project which was patterned after a similar community development project which received a great deal of the credit for turning around the once troubled neighborhood of Harlem in New York City. The project's goal here in Buffalo is to join the resources of the public and private sector and focus the synergy of such a partnership on a specific zip code in Buffalo which, for many socio-economic reasons, had not seen the same level of economic, educational or community success as compared to that of more affluent neighborhoods. The stated goal of such Promise Neighborhoods is that "they will support a number of different services and educational reforms to help improve the lives of young people from birth through childhood, from college through career." *President Barack Obama*

In February 2012, The Long Firm, LLP, along with other like-minded corporate citizens, joined with M&T Bank and committed both its time and resources going forward to form the private component to Buffalo Promise Neighborhood Project. After considering how the firm could best play a role in this exciting opportunity it was decided that The Long Firm's contribution would focus on committing its resources and efforts to raising the education aspirations and opportunities of the students of one of the high schools within the designated neighborhood, Bennett High School.