BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

National Office
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079, Irving, Texas 75015-2079
972-580-2000

Office of the Chief Scout Executive

July 30, 2002

Robert B. Carleson
Chairman, American Civil Rights Union
Scouting Legal Defense Fund
1220 Rosecrans Street #325
San Diego, CA 92106

Dear Mr. Carleson:

I write regarding your efforts to identify and monitor lists of United Ways who have withdrawn funds from the Boy Scouts of America. You may be unaware that your efforts have generated unwarranted phone calls to local United Way offices in communities where BSA relationships are very strong. The result is the opposite of what you intend. In these areas, the United Way's fund raising is being negatively affected, and results in fewer funds for the Boy Scouts and other worthwhile agencies.

We believe it is important for you to have an accurate understanding of the relationships between United Way agencies and our local councils. Please consider the following:

- The vast majority (more than 95%) of the 1,400 United Way agencies are supportive of the Boy Scouts of America.
- The BSA believes the United Way plays a very important role as a coordinated, community wide charity.
- Even in the few communities where Scouting is not granted United Way funds, we are supportive of the United Way's efforts to fund other community resources. Therefore, we respectfully request that you cease this particular line of inquiry regarding the United Way of America.

It would perhaps be more beneficial to encourage United Ways who support the BSA than address those who do not. Maintaining strong relationships is more productive than attempting to influence decisions after the fact.

Sincerely,

Roy L. Williams
Chief Scout Executive

cc: Brian Gallagher, United Way of America