

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

In the matter of youth gang )  
violence in Multnomah County )

RESOLUTION  
91-38

WHEREAS the tragic death of Charles R. "Charlie" Johnson, age 5 on March 21, 1991 once again draws the attention of the citizens Multnomah County to the senseless violence and loss of human life affiliated with youth gang behavior in Multnomah County; and

WHEREAS the Multnomah County Juvenile Justice Division developed the Youth Gang Demonstration Project to better protect the public from youth gang violence, reduce the commitment rate of African-American males to state juvenile facilities, and provide alternatives to gang activity for the increasing number of youth gravitating to gang involvement; and

WHEREAS in July, 1990, the State Legislative Emergency Board provided an appropriation of \$1.1 million to fund for one year Multnomah County's Youth Gang Demonstration Project; and

WHEREAS the initial results obtained from the Youth Gang Demonstration Project indicate a reduction of over thirty percent in the number of Multnomah County Commitments to the MacLaren and Hillcrest juvenile corrections facilities; and

WHEREAS in her 1991-93 executive budget, Governor Barbara Roberts has proposed allocating a total of \$1.1 million to fund the Youth Gang Demonstration Project for a two year biennium, a funding level only half that initially appropriated to fund the Project by the Legislature's Emergency Board and a funding level which will therefore result in elimination of the Program's thirty day residential detention program, Gang Resource Intervention Team, Service Fund, and severely curtail operations of the House of Umoja; and

RECOGNIZING that it is far less expensive to supervise juvenile offenders through facilities provided by the Youth Gang Demonstration Project than to do so at state juvenile corrections facilities; and

RECOGNIZING that the result of eliminating these services for gang youth will be a dramatic rise in the number of Multnomah County juveniles committed to state juvenile corrections facilities and thus a diminution in the number of juvenile corrections facility beds available to other jurisdictions statewide,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners strongly urge the Oregon State Legislature to restore funding for the Youth Gang Demonstration Project at a level totaling \$2.2 million for the 1991-93 biennium, the level at which funding for this essential program was initially provided.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to each delegate representing Multnomah County in the Oregon state Senate and House of Representatives as well as to all other Senators and Representatives sitting on the Legislature's Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Human Resources.

ADOPTED this 4th day of April, 1991.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



By

Gladys McCoy  
Gladys McCoy, County Chair

Pauline Anderson  
Pauline Anderson, Commissioner

Rick Bauman  
Rick Bauman, Commissioner

Gary Hansen  
Gary Hansen, Commissioner

Sharron Kelley  
Sharron Kelley, Commissioner

Reviewed  
Laurence Kressel, County Counsel  
for Multnomah County, Oregon

By Laurence Kressel