

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of a Joint        )  
City/County Policy on        )        RESOLUTION  
Criminal Gangs                )        #88-138

WHEREAS, known criminal gang members have come to this community to sell drugs, especially "crack" cocaine, and gang related violence has reached an intolerable level; and

WHEREAS, gangs are involved in other criminal activities ranging from extortion and intimidation to hate-motivated assaults and the manufacture of methamphetamine; and

WHEREAS, solving gang problems demands active participation not only by affected neighborhoods, but by the community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the spectrum of persons associated with or affected by gangs stretches from the very young who adopt gang colors and behaviors, to those who preach and practice racist violence, to those who engage in organized extortion, to those who manufacture and distribute methamphetamine, and to the seldom-seen operators of "crack" houses; and

WHEREAS, an effective response to gang problems must provide a continuum of strategies, from positive youth opportunities, prevention and treatment, to arrest, prosecution and incarceration--services which are provided by a variety of governments; and

WHEREAS, hard-core criminal gang members, the drugs they sell, and the chemicals that become the drugs they make and sell move in interstate commerce; and

WHEREAS, incapacitation of gang members through imprisonment and closer probation and parole supervision requires the state, which has primary responsibility for convicted felons, to continue to expand prison and juvenile facilities; and

WHEREAS, as long as the conditions which lead to drug use and gang participation continue, the community will suffer the effects of drugs and gangs;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

All units and branches of government involved in solving criminal gang problems cooperate in the creation of a continuing gang intelligence base available to each contributing agency, with the aim of eliminating criminal gangs; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this policy addresses all gangs engaged in criminal activity, and that it is the criminal activity of these groups, and not merely their association, which concerns our community; and

That we applaud the efforts of community-based organizations such as the District Coalitions, the N.E. Coalition's Youth Gangs Task Force, and the Coalition of Black Men, and pledge our full support to their efforts; and

That since gangs attract many youth at-risk or "gang-affected" youths, as well as older, more violent and more experienced criminals, our response must recognize and deal with a variety of individuals with differing levels of involvement; and

That all governmental agencies charged with prevention, law enforcement, prosecution, community corrections, rehabilitation and incarceration cooperate and coordinate in every way possible, to insure the maximum effectiveness of our efforts; and

That we agree with the assessment reached at a recent national conference on gangs that this problem is one which severely taxes the resources of local governments, and that greater state and federal involvement is vital; and,

That we support the recent efforts of the state to increase interstate cooperation in the fight against drugs, to promote its Children's Agenda, to increase prison capacity, and to provide more sanctions for parole and probation violators; and we encourage additional strategies which can be pursued cooperatively to aid local governments in addressing criminal gang problems; and,

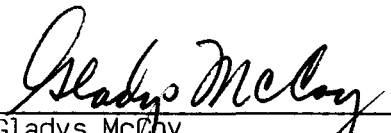
That we recognize that any approach we adopt to deal with criminal gang activity will provide only temporary relief, unless lasting solutions are found to community problems such as drug and alcohol abuse, child abuse, family dysfunction, the need for meaningful family-sustaining employment, and the need for successful early educational experiences for children.

ADOPTED this 4th day of August, 1988.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

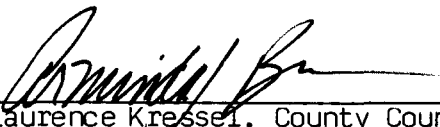


By

  
Gladys McCoy  
Multnomah County Chair

APPROVED  FORM:

By

  
Laurence Kressel, County Counsel