

**Resolution in Support of Delinquency, Youth Violence, and Drug Abuse
Prevention Programs for Austin's At-Risk Youth**
Austin Public Safety Commission

Whereas, the Austin Public Safety Commission serves as the “advisory body to the city council on all budgetary and policy matters concerning public safety...and to make recommendations on matters related to long-range comprehensive planning initiatives, ... and other related public safety matters”, and

Whereas, crime prevention is a key component of public safety, and

Whereas, school-age youth crime and delinquent acts by 10 through 20 year old youth have resulted in an average of 18,000 arrests each year for the last decade with 20,400 arrests during 2010, and school age youth arrests account for 30% of all arrests in Austin and Travis County, and

Whereas, recent research by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Center for Study and Prevention of Youth Violence, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration has collectively documented hundreds of prevention programs for at-risk youth that are readily available at low cost, and

Whereas, recent research by the Council for State Governments and Texas A&M University has documented that public school students who pass through our school disciplinary system are much more likely than other students to become candidates for our juvenile and criminal justice system, and

Whereas, it has been demonstrated locally that utilization of evidence-based youth violence prevention programs targeted to high risk youth in our school disciplinary system, in collaboration with the Austin Independent School District, has been successful, with independent evaluators finding exceptional positive outcome measures, and

Whereas, recent research has also demonstrated that intervention programs targeted at youth are more effective at reducing recidivism with greater cost effectiveness, and

Whereas, the burdens on the criminal justice system to address at-risk youth are increasing despite the limited ability for courts and related institutions to engage in comprehensive interventions,

Therefore, the Austin Public Safety Commission recommends to City Council members and the mayor that support be provided to those youth service organizations that are using evidence based delinquency prevention, youth violence prevention, and drug abuse prevention programs, and in particular those who target these prevention services to at risk youth in our AISD school disciplinary system as a means of achieving crime prevention within our City, provided that such support does not come at the expense and through the diversion of much-needed funds intended or designed for other public safety and criminal justice purposes and priorities.