

INTRODUCED: April 13, 2009

A RESOLUTION No. 2009-R 57 - 69

To support legislation introduced by U.S. Congressman Robert C. Scott, known as the Youth PROMISE Act, which creates mentoring, educational and intervention programs for at-risk youth for the purpose of reducing gang violence and crime.

Patrons – Mr. Hilbert and Vice-President Robertson

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: May 11, 2009 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, on February 13, 2009, United States Congressman Robert C. Scott introduced House Resolution 1064 to the 111th United States Congress, known as the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education (“PROMISE”) Act, to assist at-risk youth and youth already involved in criminal activities or the justice system; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Youth PROMISE Act (the “Act”) is to implement evidence- and research-based strategies to reduce gang violence and criminal street gang activity through prevention and intervention to help build individual, family, and community strength and resiliency to ensure that youth lead productive, safe, healthy, gang-free, and law-abiding lives; and

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: MAY 11 2009 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

WHEREAS, the Act establishes grants to enable local communities to establish PROMISE Coordinating Councils (“PCCs”) for the purpose of conducting an objective assessment regarding juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity and develop plans that include a range of evidence-based prevention and intervention programs; and

WHEREAS, the Act authorizes the Office of Community Policing Services to make grants to local governments with PCCs to develop community-based programs that provide crime prevention, research and intervention services designed for gang members and at-risk youth; and

WHEREAS, the Act was supported during the 110th United States Congress by over 200 national and state juvenile justice, civil rights and religious organizations, including Fight Crime; Invest in Kids; the National Juvenile Defender Center; the Justice Policy Institute; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Washington D.C. Office; the Coalition for Juvenile Justice; and the Campaign for Youth Justice, among others; and

WHEREAS, the Act has been reintroduced to the 111th United States Congress with 69 original co-sponsors in the United States House of Representatives and has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce and Financial Services; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice reports that in the state Fiscal Year 2008, a total of 3,368 juvenile complaints for felonies and misdemeanors were filed in the City of Richmond.

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice also reports that, between Fiscal Year 2006 and Fiscal Year 2008, juvenile felony complaints increased by 11%; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that the aforementioned statistics reflect the city's need for the mentoring, educational and intervention programs for at-risk youth created by the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the Council support the Act;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the City Council supports the Youth PROMISE Act, introduced by Congressman Robert C. Scott, which creates mentoring, educational and intervention programs for at-risk youth for the purpose of reducing gang violence and crime.

A TRUE COPY:

TESTE:

Lon Brown Ali
City Clerk



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Daisy E. Weaver
Council Chief of Staff

RECEIVED
APR 13 2009

OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY

Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Norman Sales, Richmond City Attorney

THROUGH Daisy E. Weaver, Council Chief of Staff

FROM Joyce L. Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Office of the Council Chief of Staff

COPY Chris Hilbert, Councilmember
Ellen Robertson, Vice President

DATE March 18, 2009

PAGE/s 1 of 3 pages

TITLE Resolution for Youth Promise Act

This is a request for the drafting of an Ordinance Resolution

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Councilman Chris Hilbert
Vice President Ellen Robertson

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Health, Human Services and Education

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

To support federal legislation, the Youth Promise Act H.R. 1064

DRAFT Resolution (by Council Policy Analyst)
Support for the Youth Promise Act

WHEREAS, Congressman Robert "Bobby" Scott introduced legislation H.R. 1064 on 2/13/2009 to the 111th Congress, the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education Act" known as the Youth Promise Act aimed to assist young people who are at risk or who are already involved in criminal activities or the justice system.

WHEREAS, the intent of the Youth Promise Act is to provide for evidence and research based strategies proven to reduce juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity through prevention and intervention to help build individual, family, and community strength and resiliency to ensure that youth lead productive, safe, healthy, gang-free, and law-abiding lives; and

WHEREAS, the proposed bill is to authorize \$2.9 billion per year to reduce juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity through prevention and early intervention with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention responsible for administering the grant funds and the selection of community grantees; and

WHEREAS, the Youth PROMISE Act creates a Promise Advisory Panel which will help OJJDP to select PROMISE community grantees that will develop performance standards for national evaluation of PROMISE

programs; and

WHEREAS, the Act encourages local communities to form collaborative relationships referred to as PROMISE Coordinating Councils who are required to develop a comprehensive action plan tailored specifically for the locality based on data collection and a needs and strengths assessment of the community; and

WHEREAS, the PROMISE Coordinating Council would include representatives from law enforcement, juvenile justice, courts, schools, social services, health providers, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, parent and youth; and

WHEREAS, the Youth PROMISE Act establishes funding to create a National Research Center for research assistance and to disseminate research of current evidence based and promising practices to local jurisdictions so that the results can be replicated in other communities; and

WHEREAS, the Act creates a Center for Youth Oriented Policing (YOPS) to train police officers in youth oriented and community based policing tactics germane to youth and provides support for youth victim and witness protection programs

WHEREAS, the Youth Promise Act require that local units of government or Indian tribes receiving grants shall provide from nonfederal funds in cash or in-kind, 25 percent of the costs of the activities carried out with such grants; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Promise Act is endorsed by 69 co-sponsors of Congress and over 200 national and state organizations.

Reference Material

Link to Overview of Legislation H.R. 1064 – 111th House of Representatives

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?c111:2:/temp/~c1117zFmm7::>



111th YPA section by YPA.release.090212
section 090220.pdf



v.2.pdf

*H.R. 1064 (111th Congress-2009) formerly H.R. 3846 (110th Congress)

BACKGROUND

Introduced to the 111th Congress, February 13, 2009 by Congressman Robert "Bobby" Scott, The Youth PROMISE Act (H.R. 1064*) authorizes \$2.9 billion per year to reduce juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity through prevention and early intervention. The legislation's official title, the "Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education Act" (PROMISE) provides for evidence and research-based strategies proven to reduce youth violence and delinquency. Research-based prevention aimed at at-risk youth would include programs such as teen pregnancy prevention, prenatal care, parenting training, nurse home visits, early childhood education programs, job-training programs work cost-effectively to reduce crime. The Youth PROMISE Act focuses on working with children who are at-risk of becoming involved or are involved in gangs or the juvenile or criminal justice system. The intent is to redirect them toward productive and law-abiding alternatives. Under the Act, resources are directed at communities facing the greatest challenges for youth gang and criminal activity.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and Promise Advisory Panels will determine the selection of community grantees and develop performance standards for national evaluation of PROMISE programs. The Act will provide grants to encourage local communities to form collaborative relationships and to develop PROMISE Coordinating Councils. Locally, PROMISE Coordinating Councils will develop a comprehensive action plan based on a needs and strengths assessment of the community.

This PROMISE Coordinating Council would include representatives from law enforcement, juvenile justice, courts, schools, social services, health providers, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, parents and youth.

The Act establishes a National Research Center for research assistance and support to local jurisdictions through dissemination of current research of evidence based and promising practices. Included in the legislation is a Center for Youth Oriented Policing (YOPS) that will work collaboratively to train police officers in strategic policing tactics germane to youth. In addition, the Act provides support for youth victim and witness protection programs.

The approach taken by the Youth Promise Act is to work with children and their families in the community to equip them with tools to prevent and to reduce crime before it occurs by using proven effective strategies for prevention and intervention.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Youth PROMISE Act requires that local units of government receiving grants shall provide from nonfederal funds, in cash or in-kind, 25 percent of the costs of the grant. The grant award is proposed for a four-year period to include the first 12 months as a planning grant to conduct needs assessment and to develop a comprehensive action plan. Additional grant funds would be awarded during the implementation phase based on the comprehensive action plan.

STATUS OF BILL

The Bill was introduced February 13, 2009. It has been referred to Committee on the Judiciary. In addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce and Financial Services. Congressman Scott's office indicated that the proposed legislation has 69 original co-sponsors and the support of over 200 national and state organizations. It is anticipated that the legislation will be voted on in late April or May.

*H.R. 1064 (111th Congress-2009) formerly H.R. 3846 (110th Congress)

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes No

Budget Amendment Required Yes No

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact \$

Fiscal Summary

The Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact is estimated at \$300,000 that will be allocated to the locality for the planning grant for a 12-month period and up to \$1,000,000 per locality for the implementation phase.

The Youth PROMISE Act requires that local units of government receiving grants shall provide from nonfederal funds, in cash or in-kind, 25 percent of the costs of the grant.

Attachment/s Yes No

**H.R. 1064, the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities,
Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education (“Youth PROMISE”) Act
Introduced by Robert C. “Bobby” Scott on February 13, 2009**

Section-by-Section

Title I: Federal Coordination of Local and Tribal Juvenile Justice Information and Efforts.

Sec. 101 creates a PROMISE Advisory Panel. This Panel will assist the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in selecting PROMISE community grantees. The Panel will also develop standards for the evaluation of juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention approaches carried out under the PROMISE Act. Sec. 102 provides for specific data collection in each designated geographic area to assess the needs and existing resources for juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention. This data will then facilitate the strategic geographic allocation of resources provided under the Act to areas of greatest need for assistance.

Title II: PROMISE Grants. Sec. 201 establishes grants to enable local and tribal communities, via PROMISE Coordinating Councils (PCCs) (Sec. 202) to conduct an objective assessment (Sec. 203) regarding juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity and resource needs and strengths in the community. Based upon the assessment, the PCCs then will develop plans that include a broad array of evidence-based prevention and intervention programs. These programs will be responsive to the needs and strengths of the community, account for the community’s cultural and linguistic needs, and utilize approaches that have been proven to be effective in reducing involvement in or continuing involvement in delinquent conduct or criminal street gang activity. The PCCs can then apply for federal funds, on the basis of greatest need, to implement their PROMISE plans (Sec. 211-213). Title II also provides for national evaluation of PROMISE programs and activities (Sec. 222), based on performance standards developed by the PROMISE Advisory Panel.

Title III: PROMISE Research Center. Sec. 301 establishes a National Research Center for Proven Juvenile Justice Practices. This Center will collect and disseminate information to PROMISE Coordinating Councils and the public on current research and other information about evidence-based and promising practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity and intervention. Sec. 302 provides for regional academic research partners to assist PCCs in developing their assessments and plans.

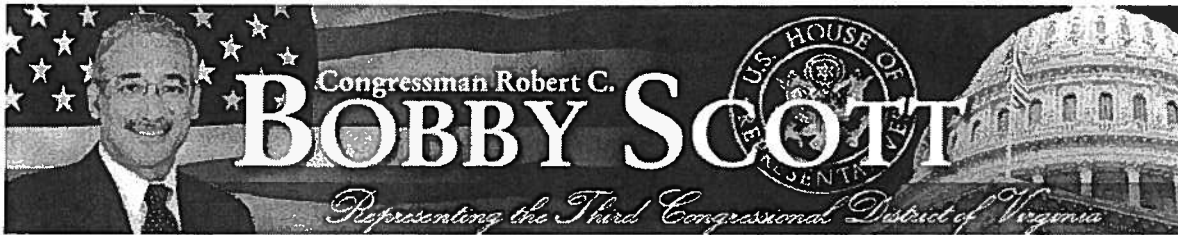
Title IV: Youth-Oriented Policing Services. Sec. 402 provides, within the office of Community Oriented Policing Services, for the hiring and training of Youth Oriented Policing (YOPS) officers to address juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity in coordination with PCC’s and other local youth services organizations. Sec. 403 also establishes a Center for Youth Oriented Policing, which will be responsible for identification, development and dissemination of information related to strategic policing practices and technologies to law enforcement agencies related to youth.

Title V: Enhancing Federal Support of Local Law Enforcement Mynisha’s Law. Mynisha’s Law provides appropriate federal coordination and collaboration by requiring the placement of an interagency task force – consisting of representatives from the Departments of Justice, Labor, Education, HUD and HHS – to prevent and address gang activity in specific designated high intensity gang areas. The interagency task force would be responsible for identifying and coordinating access to federal gang prevention resources, such as afterschool programs, Job Corp programs, and low income affordable housing.

Sec. 511 authorizes the COPS Office to make grants to local and tribal governments with a PROMISE Council to develop community-based programs that provide crime prevention, research, and intervention services designed for gang members and at-risk youth. Sec. 522 authorizes the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to partnerships between a state mental health authority and one or more local public or private entities to prevent or alleviate the effects of youth violence in urban communities with a high or increasing incidence of such violence by providing violence-prevention education, mentoring, counseling, and mental health services to children and adolescents.

Title VI: Precaution Act. To coordinate the volumes of data and research on crime prevention and intervention, this Title creates a national commission on crime prevention and intervention strategies to identify those programs that are most ready for replication around the country, and to provide guidance in a direct and accessible format to state and local law enforcement on how to implement those strategies. The commission also would identify those promising areas of crime prevention and intervention programming that would benefit from further research and development, and would report to federal, state, and local law enforcement on the outcomes of a grant program administered by the National Institute of Justice to pilot programs in these areas and test their effectiveness. The use of this information would ensure that the criminal justice community is investing its limited resources in the most cost-effective way possible.

Title VII: Additional Improvements to Juvenile Justice. Sec. 701 provides additional improvements to current laws affecting juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity, including support for youth victim and witness protection programs. Sec. 702 provides for an expansion of the Mentoring Initiatives program for system-involved youth. And Sec. 703 calls for a study on adolescent development and the effectiveness of juvenile sentences in the Federal system.



For Immediate Release
February 13, 2009

Contact: 202.225.8351

REP. SCOTT AND REP. CASTLE INTRODUCE YOUTH PROMISE ACT

WASHINGTON, DC – On Friday, February 13, 2009, Congressman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (D-VA-03) and Congressman Mike Castle (R-DE-AL) re-introduced the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunity Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education, or Youth PROMISE Act. The Youth PROMISE Act was re-introduced with 69 original co-sponsors in the House, 58 more than last year when introduced. Companion legislation was also introduced in the US Senate by Senators Robert Casey (D-PA) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME).

The Youth PROMISE Act implements the best policy recommendations from crime policy makers, researchers, practitioners, analysts, and law enforcement officials from across the political spectrum concerning evidence- and research-based strategies to reduce gang violence and crime. Under the Youth PROMISE Act, communities facing the greatest youth gang and crime challenges will each form a local council called a Promise Coordinating Council (“PCC”). The PCC will include representatives from law enforcement, court services, schools, social service organizations, health and mental health providers and community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations. The PCC will then develop a comprehensive plan for implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies. These strategies will target young people who are at-risk of becoming involved, or who are already involved in, gangs or the criminal justice system to redirect them toward productive and law-abiding alternatives.

“During my more than 30 years of public service, I have learned that when it comes to crime policy, we have a choice – we can reduce crime or we can play politics,” Mr. Scott said. “For far too long, Congress has chosen to play politics by enacting “tough on crime” slogans whose impacts range from a negligible reduction in crime to an *increase* in crime. As a result, the United States now has the highest average incarceration rate of any nation in the world and the cost of incarceration in this country has risen to over \$65 billion a year. All the credible research and evidence shows that a continuum of evidenced-based prevention and intervention programs for at-risk youth, , will greatly reduce crime **and** save much more than they cost. This is what the Youth PROMISE Act will do,” Scott added.

The bill also provides for law enforcement support through “Youth Oriented Policing Services” (YOPS), and a victim/witness assistance program. New provisions of the Youth PROMISE Act

(over)

this year provide additional grants to high intensity gang localities to reduce or alleviate the effects of gang violence, and grants to localities to fund police and community collaborative programs to provide crime prevention, research, and intervention services designed to prevent crime by at-risk youth and youth gang members.

"I have long believed that the best way to reduce violence in this country is through prevention, and the Youth PROMISE Act does just that," said Rep. Castle. "We must engage youth in positive ways through education, after school programs, sports, as well as family and community support to keep kids away from the dangers of gangs and other violent activities."

The Youth PROMISE Act was supported last Congress by over 200 national and state juvenile justice, civil rights, education and religious organizations, including Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, the National Juvenile Defender Center, the Justice Policy Institute, the NAACP Washington DC Office, the Coalition for Juvenile Justice, and the Campaign for Youth Justice, among others. We expect that list to continue to grow this Congress.

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