

City of
Norfolk
Office of the City Manager

C: Dir., Office of Intergovernmental Relations

April 7, 2009

To the Honorable Council
City of Norfolk, Virginia

Re: Resolution supporting, H.R. 1064, the
Youth PROMISE Act sponsored by
Congressman Bobby Scott

Ladies and Gentlemen:

- I. **Recommended Action:** Adopt Resolution
- II. **Overview**

This agenda item is a resolution in support of H.R. 1064, the Youth PROMISE Act sponsored by Congressman Bobby Scott. The Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunity Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education, or Youth PROMISE Act is a comprehensive approach to solving youth violence before it starts, much like the Norfolk "Saving Our Children" Initiative.

The Youth PROMISE Act affords localities grant opportunities to form Youth PROMISE Councils which will develop specific programs in support of youth violence intervention and prevention. The bill also creates a research center to collect and distribute evidence-based research on juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity and intervention techniques. Finally, the bill creates grant opportunities for localities to hire additional police officers who will be specially trained to work with at-risk youth and creates mentoring initiatives.

- III. **Analysis**

- A. **General**

The Youth PROMISE Act was introduced February 13, 2009 during the 111th Congressional Session. This is the second Congress in which Congressman Scott has introduced this legislation. The goal of the Youth PROMISE Act is to have the federal government provide a substantial (up to \$10 million per grantee) and sustained (up to 4 years) investment in scientifically proven prevention and intervention services for at-risk and

R-5

system involved youth to get and keep them on the right track to attend college or obtain employment. Communities are required to document the savings generated by the PROMISE funding (similar approaches have shown an average of \$5 saved for every \$1 spent) and to capture a portion of those savings to continue the services. The Youth PROMISE Act does eliminate poverty, mental illness, hopelessness, lack of guidance and other factors contributing to youth delinquency, but addresses these factors in ways that prevent or reform violent and delinquent behavior.

B. Fiscal

The Youth PROMISE Act provides for grants up to \$200,000 for use by PROMISE Councils in communities experiencing high youth violence, gang or delinquency rates to assess the problems and to develop a plan for utilizing proven services to reduce the problems. The bill also provides for grants of up to \$10 million for such PROMISE Councils to pay for the evidenced-based services identified in the plan.

Also, as a part of the plan, communities may apply for a Youth Oriented Policing Services (YOPS) grant of up to \$2 million, for designation as a "comprehensive gang prevention and relief area". The YOPS grant allows for additional federal resources to complement prevention efforts, and for a police and community collaboration grant of up to \$1 million.

All grants are issued to the locality to be administered for the benefit of the PROMISE Councils.

C. Environmental

N/A

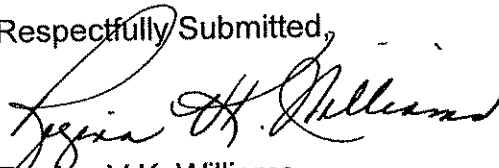
D. Community Outreach/Notification

The Youth PROMISE Act requires that grantees establish Youth PROMISE Councils or taskforces. The taskforce must include representatives from law enforcement, court services, schools, social service, health and mental health providers, other agencies working with at-risk youth, and community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations.

IV. Conclusion

The Youth PROMISE Act sponsored by Congressman Bobby Scott is in line with the Saving Our Children initiative and therefore it is recommended that the City Council adopt this resolution, in support of this legislation.

Respectfully Submitted,



Regina V.K. Williams
City Manager

Coordination/Outreach

This letter has been coordinated with Congressman Bobby Scott, the Office of Community Empowerment and the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

3/24/09 1m
Form and Correctness Approved:
By [Signature]
Office of the City Attorney

Contents Approved:
By [Signature]
DEPT.

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Resolution 1,408

R-5

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF THE SAVING OUR CHILDREN INITIATIVE AND SUPPORTING THE YOUTH PROMISE ACT.

- - -

WHEREAS, the City is committed to youth violence prevention with the adoption of the Saving Our Children initiative; and

WHEREAS, Saving Our Children is a collaboration of City Departments such as the Norfolk Police Department, Human Services and Second Chances and in partnership with Norfolk Public Schools to reduce gang-related crime in the City and intervene in the lives of youth before they reach the point of committing a gang-related crime or even joining a gang; and

WHEREAS, the City has also created the Norfolk Gang Prevention Taskforce, bringing together key stakeholders such as City Departments, Schools, Community Organizations and Faith Based Groups; and

WHEREAS, pending in Congress is the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support, and Education Act (Youth PROMISE Act), sponsored by Congressman Bobby Scott, which would amend the Juvenile Justice

and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Youth PROMISE Act encourages evidence-based practices related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention that is needed to help build individual, family, and community strength for youth; and

WHEREAS, the Youth PROMISE Act establishes a PROMISE Advisory Panel to assist the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in:

- Assessing and developing standards and evidence-based practices to prevent juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity;
- Collecting data in designated geographic areas to assess the needs and existing resources for juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention; and

WHEREAS, the Youth PROMISE Act authorizes awarding grants to local governments to:

- Plan, assess, and implement PROMISE plans and programs for juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention, especially for at-risk youth, in local communities;

• Hire and train law enforcement officers as youth-oriented police to work with local PROMISE Coordinating Councils, other community based organizations, and high-risk youths;

• Create and expand state, local, and tribal juvenile witness and victim protection programs; and

WHEREAS, the City supports the Youth PROMISE Act because it provides additional resources to support the City's Saving Our Children initiative and commitment to gang prevention and intervention; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Norfolk:

Section 1:- That the City Manager include as part of her federal legislative program support of the Youth PROMISE Act, or any other such legislation which would provide funding for programs related to juvenile delinquency and criminal street gang activity prevention and intervention.

Section 2:- That this resolution shall be in effect from and after its adoption.

Adopted by Council April 7, 2009
Effective April 7, 2009

TRUE COPY
TESTE:

R. BRECKENRIDGE DAUGHTREY, CITY CLERK

BY: _____
DEPUTY CITY CLERK