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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2008 JUN -5 AM 11:41

REVISED

Approved as to Form and Legality

D. Bialosky
Oakland City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. 81474 C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember Nancy Nadel

ADOPT A RESOLUTION OPPOSING CALIFORNIA STATE INITIATIVE 07-0094, THE RUNNER INITIATIVE, A PROPOSED BALLOT MEASURE THAT WOULD ANNUALLY SHIFT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN STATE RESOURCES FROM EDUCATION AND CRIME AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION SERVICES TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS THAT WILL A) FACILITATE THE PROSECUTION OF MORE YOUTHS AS ADULTS; B) INCREASE PENALTIES FOR DRUG OFFENSES AND OFFENSES ALLEGED TO BE "GANG" RELATED; C) CREATE MANDATORY CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR HOUSING SUBSIDY RECIPIENTS; AND D) PROHIBIT BAIL FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS CHARGED WITH "GANG RELATED" FELONIES

WHEREAS, The Runner Initiative, called the Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, is a ballot proposition introduced by Antelope Valley State Senator George Runner and Assemblywoman Sharon Runner, and is currently being circulated for signatures in order to be included on the November, 2008 ballot; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Analysts Report found that The Runner Initiative will direct nearly \$1 billion dollars to specified criminal justice programs, a \$365 million dollar increase from current spending levels, while preventing millions of dollars from being transferred to the Department of Education and the state General Fund; and

WHEREAS, The Runner Initiative increases penalties for youth convicted of gang-related crimes, which local human rights organizations believe will disproportionately impact youth of color; and

WHEREAS, The Runner Initiative denies the right to pretrial release to undocumented immigrants charged with serious or gang-related crimes; and

WHEREAS, The Runner Initiative targets recipients of public housing subsidies for annual criminal background checks; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General's impartial analysis found that The Runner Initiative will increase the number of youth over 14 years of age charged with gang related crimes who will be tried as adults; and

WHEREAS, The Runner Initiative will take away Youth Offender Block Grant money previously provided directly to county drug treatment, mental health or other departments and will require that all money be directed to county probation to be used for housing juvenile offenders; and

WHEREAS, The Runner Initiative will exclude community members and non-profit organizations working with juveniles from participating on county wide juvenile justice coordinating councils tasked with developing a comprehensive plan for prevention, intervention, treatment and incarceration of juveniles; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council declares its opposition to The Runner Initiative sponsored by Senator George Runner and Assemblymember Sharon Runner; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council urges its legislative representatives to not sign on as co-sponsors of this bill; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council directs the City Administrator and the City's legislative lobbyist to actively advocate against the passage of this initiative.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, JUL 15 2008


PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, AND PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE - 8

NOES - 0

ABSENT - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

ATTEST: 
LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of
the City of Oakland, California