

Presented by: The Assembly
Introduced: 03/24/2003
Drafted by: J.R. Corso

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2202

A Resolution Urging the Legislature to Support and Fund Alaska's Youth Courts.

WHEREAS, Youth Court is an innovative alternative to the traditional juvenile justice system and is empowered by Alaska Statute 47.12.400 to make a positive difference in Alaskan communities, and

WHEREAS, Youth Courts are established for the purpose of decreasing juvenile crime and the recidivism amongst juvenile offenders as well as to involve students in implementing restorative justice, and

WHEREAS, Youth Court allows students valuable experience in assuming the role and responsibility of a judge or attorney in a courtroom to judge, prosecute, or defend first-time juvenile offenders in a court of their peers, and

WHEREAS, Youth Court programs help ease the caseload of district and superior courts, juvenile probation offices, and school districts, and

WHEREAS, for the past decade Youth Courts have served as an effective method of decreasing repeat-crime amongst juvenile offenders in Alaska, and

WHEREAS, there are at least 15 Youth Courts statewide which involve approximately 1,000 Alaskan students in implementing restorative justice in their communities, and

WHEREAS, Alaska's Youth Courts are currently dependent on a federal juvenile justice grant which is in the process of being cut by 30% over a three-year period and which is not guaranteed due to lack of congressional authorization, and

WHEREAS, a program as beneficial and successful as Youth Court should not be left to unreliable means of funding, and

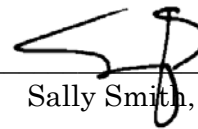
WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature first empowered youth courts and has the authority to secure sustainable funding for the future of Alaska's Youth Courts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. That the City commend Alaska's Youth Courts and encourage the Alaska State Legislature to establish a stable base of funding for Youth Courts across Alaska.

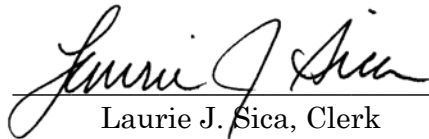
Section 2. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 24th day of March, 2003.



Sally Smith, Mayor

Attest:



Laurie J. Sica, Clerk

Vote: Unanimous