

Memo

To: City Council

From: Robert Lieber, Council Member

Date: November 1, 2010

Re: Youth Promise Act

Recommendation

Council Member Lieber recommendation: Approve Resolution No. 2010-57 – A Resolution of the Albany City Council Supporting H.R. 1064 and S. 435 the Youth Promise Act Which Creates Mentoring, Educational and Intervention Programs for At-Risk Youth for the Purpose of Reducing Gang Violence and Crime and Strengthening our Communities.

Discussion

The bipartisan Youth Promise Act would fill a major gap in our Nation's criminal justice-centered approach to youth delinquency, crime and violence by providing critical support for hard hit communities to invest in evidence-based, locally driven prevention and intervention practices that engage and divert at-risk youth proactively before a crime is committed.

Research has shown that proactive, community-based strategies such as mentoring and after-school programs reduce crime more effectively and at a much lower cost than the current approach, under which we wait for a crime or violence to occur, then react by funneling youth through a punishing minefield of arrest, prosecution and incarceration.

The Youth Promise Act will pre-empt this cycle and save crucial taxpayer funds by empowering communities to implement custom-tailored prevention and intervention strategies, while holding them accountable by linking funding to proven metric success.

This legislation is supported by the US Conference of Mayors; a coalition of more than 250 national, state and local organizations; City Councils of Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Richmond, VA, among others; Los Angeles County Sheriff Leroy D. Baca.