

RESOLUTION NO. 04-2009

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
MESQUITE, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE NORTH TEXAS CRIME
COMMISSION 2009 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the mission of the North Texas Crime Commission ("NTCC") is to make north Texas safer by linking law enforcement, business, education, government, media and all citizens; and

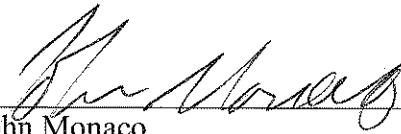
WHEREAS, the NTCC has initiated a Legislative Committee in order to address the needs of north Texas law enforcement and to represent the region in the 81st Texas Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS, the NTCC has put together an anti-crime legislative program, focusing on the following issues: electronic monitoring, prison capacity, sobriety checkpoints, mandatory ignition interlock devices, scrap metal sales, pre-paid cell phones, stricter penalties, mental health offenders and blue warrant offenders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS:

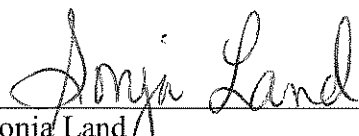
SECTION 1. That the City of Mesquite, Texas, supports the North Texas Crime Commission in advancement of its 2009 Legislative Program for the 81st Texas Legislative Session attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

DULY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, on the 2nd day of February, 2009.



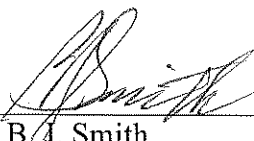
John Monaco
Mayor

ATTEST:



Sonja Land
City Secretary

APPROVED:



B.J. Smith
City Attorney

NORTH TEXAS CRIME COMMISSION
2009 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
81ST LEGISLATIVE SESSION

We Support:

Technology

- The use of electronic monitoring for certain high-risk criminal offenders, such as repetitive property crime offenders, and the use of electronic SCRAM devices for DWI offenders, as a condition of placement on probation or parole.
 - Supported by: Texas Police Chiefs Association.
 - Reasoning: As Texas' population increases and prisons reach and exceed capacity, there is a need to alleviate overcrowding. This proposed legislation would allow certain offenders to be monitored in their own homes in order to allow space in prison for other offenders.

Prison Capacity

- A requirement for a joint executive and legislative report on prison capacity based upon population and projected per capita crime rate increases.
 - Reasoning: Texas' population has grown to 24 million, as opposed to 14 million in 1980 and 17 million in 1990. It has been estimated that the population will reach 52 million by 2040. With a population increase, there will be an increase in criminal activity and, thus, an increase in offenders needing to be housed in Texas prisons. The proposed legislation would allow for the creation of a committee which would review prison capacity based on population increases of 5 million as well as projected crime rates.

Substance Abuse

- Legislation authorizing use of sobriety checkpoints consistent with United States Supreme Court decisions, and use of mandatory ignition interlock devices for all DWI convictions, including use as a condition for granting an occupational license, if the applicant is serving a sentence for a DWI conviction or has a prior DWI conviction.
 - Supported by: Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Texas Police Chiefs Association, Sheriffs' Association of Texas.
 - Reasoning: Texas has the highest amount of alcohol-related fatalities, yet it is still one of 11 states that does not conduct sobriety checkpoints.

Crime

- The endorsement of further restrictions at point of sale of scrap metals which include: the requirement that sellers be fingerprinted, the metals being offered for sale be photographed and fully described, the buyer being paid by check to be mailed to the seller with no cash transactions, and buyers being required to hold on to the metals for a period of time beyond the time required to report the transaction to local law enforcement.
 - Supported by: Texas Police Chiefs Association, Sheriffs' Association of Texas, City of Dallas.
 - Reasoning: Metals theft has increased in the last few years.
- The show of positive ID in order to purchase pre-paid cell phones.
 - Reasoning: Pre-paid cell phones are being used in crime because they cannot currently be tracked by law enforcement.

Enhanced Sentencing

- Stricter penalties for the conviction of burglary of a motor vehicle, auto theft, burglary of a habitation, or robbery involving the use of a firearm.
- Incarceration for any felony against a person by an offender with a previous felony conviction or probation.
- Legislation that would prohibit the release on bond for any person arrested for a felony when that person is on parole or probation for any violent felony.

Mental Health

- Legislation related to Mental Health such as:
 - Increased funding for Crisis Intervention Programs and Crisis Response Redesign Models for MHMR and mental health services.
 - The endorsement of efforts for pre-arrest and post-arrest diversion of mental health patients from county jails and the development of a system of regional crisis intervention treatment centers to facilitate diversion.
 - Monitored by: Texas Police Chiefs Association.
 - Supported by: Sheriffs' Association of Texas, City of Dallas.

- Reasoning: Mentally ill offenders often end up in prison instead of being appropriately treated in mental health facilities.

Other

- Endorse the amending of statutes to provide relief for all Texas counties from the responsibility and expense of holding inmates arrested on Blue Warrants. Specifically, to reduce the number of inmates in county jails with Blue Warrant holds, with a strong recommendation to allow for an inmate with a blue warrant to be eligible for bond if the inmate is not an absconder or been convicted of a violent felony or sex offense. Also, to set up reimbursement to the counties for medical and extraordinary special needs expenses from the first day of incarceration and to reimburse counties for daily expenses for all Blue Warrant inmates starting on the 15th day of incarceration.
 - Supported and authored by: Sheriffs' Association of Texas.

We Oppose:

- Legislation that would reduce the amount of information law enforcement could obtain from pawn shops.
- Legislation that reduces felony penalties or reclassifies a felony as a misdemeanor in order to reduce prison capacity.