

1 [Opposition to California State Initiative 07-0094, the Runner Initiative]

2
3 **Resolution expressing opposition to Initiative 07-0094, the Runner Initiative, a**
4 **proposed ballot measure that would shift state resources from education, crime and**
5 **violence prevention toward increased incarceration of youth and young adults from**
6 **low income communities of color with limited opportunities for education, employment**
7 **and rehabilitation.**
8

9
10 WHEREAS, the Runner Initiative, called the Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, is a ballot
11 proposition introduced by Antelope Valley State Senator George Runner, and is currently
12 being circulated for signatures in order to be included on the November, 2008 ballot; and,

13 WHEREAS, The Runner Initiative makes several changes to current criminal law that
14 would increase the number of inmates and the time they serve in the State of California's
15 penal system, a system that is already overburdened with Three-Strikes legislation and other
16 mandatory sentencing requirements and which is currently under federal scrutiny by a three-
17 judge panel convened to consider placing limits on the California prison population; and,

18 WHEREAS, The Runner Initiative, mandates significant increases in expenditures for
19 criminal justice programs including net program costs likely to exceed a half billion dollars and
20 unknown capital outlay costs estimated to exceed an additional a half billion dollars during a
21 period in which the State of California is facing a budget crisis prompting California Governor
22 Arnold Schwarzenegger to ask for budget cuts of more than ten percent across the board;
23 and,
24
25

1 WHEREAS, The Runner Initiative shifts California State General Fund monies to
2 criminal justice programming from other services including education, health care and human
3 services; and,

4 WHEREAS, Moreover these expenditures would disproportionately fund enforcement
5 and incarceration programs over prevention and rehabilitative services; and,

6 WHEREAS, There exists a wide body of work in the criminal justice field that
7 demonstrates the cost effectiveness of education, prevention and rehabilitation programs and
8 their ability to reduce violence and criminal activity at a cost much less than incarceration;
9 and,

10 WHEREAS, Many low income communities, including communities of color, lack
11 meaningful opportunities for employment, recreation and education that are known to steer
12 youth and young adults away from criminal activity toward positive and healthy futures; and,

13 WHEREAS, Youth and young adults from low income communities of color are
14 disproportionately targeted by police and gang enforcement measures, subsequently they are
15 disproportionately represented in California's prisons and juvenile facilities; and,

16 WHEREAS; Law enforcement agencies already labels many youth and young adults
17 from low income communities of color as gang members, often merely for their association
18 with people who are already identified as gang members. Often these gang labels are applied
19 without a youth or young adult's direct involvement in criminal activity; and,

20 WHEREAS, The Runner Initiative would increase the number of youth tried as adults
21 by creating the presumption that youth fourteen years or older at the time of a violation of
22 such gang crimes is unfit for juvenile court; and,

23 WHEREAS, The Runner Initiative would require the establishment of a statewide gang
24 registry, a database that would capture many youth and young adults of color merely for their
25 association with one another; and,

1 WHEREAS, The Runner Initiative would explicitly exclude community and mental
2 health input from County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Councils; and,

3 WHEREAS, Among other measures the Runner Initiative would require local
4 governments to conduct annual background checks on recipients of federal housing subsidies
5 in order to establish eligibility for new funding; and,

6 WHEREAS, The Runner Initiative would require the Sheriff, the District Attorney and
7 Trial Courts to record the status of any undocumented immigrant who is booked or charged
8 with a felony to be reported to the Department of Justice of the federal government. Such
9 reporting would override the City of San Francisco's Sanctuary City Ordinance; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
12 hereby expresses opposition to the Initiative 07-0094, the Runner Initiative; and, be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges local voters to not sign
14 petitions to qualify the Runner Initiative for the November 2008 ballot.

15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25