

RESOLUTION

Supporting the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program; encouraging persons with outstanding warrants to submit themselves before a court of law in the Mt. Zion Church, Oakwood Village, during the period September 22-25, 2010.

WHEREAS, let it be recognized by the Board of County Commissioners that September 22-25, 2010 is designated as the Fugitive Safe Surrender Week during which persons with outstanding warrants may submit themselves before a court of law in the Mt. Zion Church in Oakwood Village, Ohio.

WHEREAS, the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program is now in its 6th year, and has led to the peaceful and voluntary surrender of more than twenty-five thousand people across the nation who are seeking to take their first step toward a second chance.

WHEREAS, the highest priority of government is the protection of its citizens and the creation of policies, procedure, mandates and laws that enhance the quality of life.

WHEREAS, the government also recognizes that for its citizens to live free, safe, and fulfilling lives, individual's responsibility requires a collective willingness to restrain their own ambitions by adhering to the laws that govern us all.

WHEREAS, it is understood and accepted the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program does not offer amnesty, but individuals charged to receive favorable consideration from a court of law in accordance with all rights and responsibilities appertaining thereto.

WHEREAS, in its mission it is often recognized that government may join with respected institutions, in partnership to create opportunities for those that have fallen short and for those who have violated the laws that serve to protect our communities, families, property, and well-being. We agree herein that the institution of the church provides clear moral certainty and purpose, and its mission to serve, to help and to heal the downtrodden, broken hearted and dispossess is sacrosanct.

WHEREAS, the moral obligation of government to punish the offender places an enormous burden on the livelihood and well being of our cities and other governmental bodies.

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, there are approximately 13 million admissions to county jails each year. Of that number, approximately 740,000 individuals are committed to state prison. An estimated two-thirds of jail inmates are in "pretrial status," meaning they are being held without conviction at a great cost to local taxpayers. Further, statistics show that of all the unconvicted inmates, the majority (65 percent) are nonviolent offenders and are prime candidates for effective pretrial services programs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that to serve the interests of the community and posterity, we affirm the commitment of the body to the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program and its mission to make of neighborhoods, communities, and families safer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commend its organizers and participants, including the program's founder, U.S. Marshall Peter J. Elliott; Senior Pastor of the Mt. Zion Church of Oakwood Village Reverend Dr. Larry L. Macon Sr.; and the broad partnership of additional city, county and state government officials; clergy; corporations; nonprofits and individual volunteers for a cooperative vision for our communities that embraces the humanity and sacredness of law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners encourages our leaders, public servants, private organizations, and the like to embrace this program to ensure its successful completion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board be, and she is, hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Peter J. Elliott, U.S. Marshall, Northern District of Ohio; James Corrigan, Government Relations Officer, Administrator's Office/Health & Human Services; Reverend Dr. Larry L. Macon, Sr., Mt Zion Church and Dr. C. Jay Matthews, Mt. Sinai Church.

On Motion of Commissioner Hagan, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Ayes: Hagan, Jones.

Nays: None.

Resolution Adopted.

**Jeanne M. Schmotzer,
Clerk of the Board**

**Journal 308
September 16, 2010
103902
fg**