



Larry Dickerson
Chief of Police

WASILLA
POLICE
DEPARTMENT
City of Wasilla

1800 E. Parks Hwy.
Wasilla, AK 99654

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Vernon Rupright
Mayor

February 9, 2010

Charlie Huggins
State Senator
600 E. Railroad Av
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Mr. Huggins,

I would like to express my support of HB331 and SB257 which would provide continued funding of State wide Youth Court Programs.

I fully support youth courts as statewide diversion programs that address first time juvenile offenses. These programs operate in twelve communities around the state. My current experience with youth courts is with the Mat-Su Youth Court (MSYC) program, which falls under the umbrella of the Wasilla Police Department and is funded wholly through grants. The Wasilla Police Department supports the MSYC with in-kind donations by providing office space and some supplies.

It is my firm belief that without MSYC operating in the Mat-Su Valley the police department would continue to see increased juvenile crime. Young offenders who do not suffer consequences as first time offenders will continue to commit crimes according to recent statistics.

Wasilla Police officers know that when they complete a report on a juvenile first time offender who has committed a low-level offense, that juvenile will not simply be given a letter from the State or a verbal warning from a Juvenile Probation Officer. Virtually every first time offense that is referred to the Division of Juvenile Justice office in the Mat-Su Valley gets referred to MSYC. MSYC takes action to insure the juvenile offender is made aware of what he/she did, who it affected in the community, and what to do to avoid repeating their conduct.

I support these bills to allow youth courts around the state to work on sustainability of their programs and to insure that they continue to address juvenile crime in the State of Alaska.

Greg Wood
Deputy Chief of Police



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Bill Stolze,
State Representative
600 E. Railroad Av
Wasilla, AK 99654

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