



**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-01**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE FAIRBANKS DIVERSITY COUNCIL URGING  
THE FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL TO SUPPORT STATE SENATE BILL 91  
PERTAINING TO COMPREHENSIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM**

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Legislature is looking at how to manage the state's current fiscal crisis. Facing a multi-billion dollar budget shortfall, it is vital that each dollar spent is cost effective, and targeted in a manner to get the best return on investment; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska's corrections spending has grown unchecked for decades, now costing the state over \$300 million each year, and hundreds of millions more each time Alaska builds a new prison. Despite this extraordinary cost, the state is not getting a good return on investment. Two out of three offenders released from Alaska's prisons return within three years. A two-thirds failure rate would not be tolerated in any other area of government spending; and

**WHEREAS**, every dollar the state spends on corrections is a dollar that is unavailable for priorities like education and economic development. Thanks to the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission, we now know that the state can spend less on corrections and actually get better public safety outcomes. The Commission tracked the best research in the field on what works – and what does not work – to change criminal offending behavior, and has provided the Legislature with 21 recommendations for statutory changes that will get better outcomes while safely reducing the prison population and saving the state an estimated \$424 million. We applaud Senator Coghill for incorporating these recommendations into Senate Bill 91, and encourage the Alaska Legislature to pass them into law; and


**WHEREAS**, public safety is directly related to healthy, vibrant, and economically sound communities. Prison, however, is not the only path to public safety, particularly for low-level crimes. Too many Alaskans are taken out of the workforce for involvement in minor nonviolent crimes. The comprehensive package of criminal justice reforms contained in Senate Bill 91 will help ensure that our workforce can remain productive members of society, and not become financial burdens on the state; and

**WHEREAS**, we have seen the Alaska Legislature work aggressively to ensure that state dollars are not wasted. The time to extend that cost-benefit approach to the state's prison system is now;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fairbanks Diversity Council supports State of Alaska Senate Bill 91 and urges the Fairbanks City Council to approve a resolution in support of the bill.

**PASSED and APPROVED** this 8th day of March 2016 by the Fairbanks Diversity Council.

Signed:

  
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John Eberhart, FDC Chair

Attest:

  
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D. Danyielle Spider, CMC, City Clerk