



CENTRAL COUNCIL

Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Eightieth Annual Tribal Assembly

April 15-17, 2015

Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA/ 15-08

Title: In Support of Sentencing Practices that Promote Public Safety and Increased Efforts to Reduce Recidivism Rates for Alaska Natives

By: Anchorage Tlingit and Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe with nearly 30,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, there is an Alaska Prison Population Inequity - Alaska Natives comprise over 40 percent of the general population of the State of Alaska prisoner population. This is a large *disproportionate* number when you factor in other ethnic groups and it is unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, because Alaska Native prison population hovers around 40 percent we can assume that the cost associated is about \$116,508,000 just to house Natives in prison. And the tribes have infrastructure in place to use these monies to reduce recidivism. These monies could be better spent towards programs designed to reduce recidivism for Alaska Natives; and

WHEREAS, the public desires and deserves criminal justice systems that promote public safety while making effective use of taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, despite increasing use of incarceration and greater spending on corrections, recidivism rates have continued to escalate especially for Natives; and

WHEREAS, the Tribes and the State would benefit in partnering and taking on new correction initiatives. Using the tribe programs Employment & Training, Housing, Education Services, Family Services, Elderly Services, Cultural, Community Services, Rehabilitation Centers and Tribal Courts it would benefit the State to work with the tribes to come up with State subsidized programs to reduce recidivism rates. These programs could be activated for low level offenders who are most likely to reoffend utilizing a less costly incarceration method such as ankle monitor or house arrest; and

WHEREAS, financially it would benefit the State to partner with the tribe and work in collaboration efforts to apply for Federal Grants designed to reduce recidivism; and

WHEREAS, the judiciary, consistent with its obligation to provide just and effective punishments for criminal offenders, has a vital role to play in ensuring that criminal justice systems work effectively and efficiently to protect the public by reducing recidivism and holding offenders accountable; and

WHEREAS, the best research evidence has shown that use of validated offender risk and need assessment tools is critical in reducing recidivism; and

WHEREAS, grants exist to help reduce recidivism and that the State can work with tribes to obtain grant funds and implement programs to combat what tribes describe as a growing epidemic of recidivism in Alaska.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eightieth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 15-17, 2015, hereby ask the State of Alaska to take all and any measures to reduce recidivism rates and utilize tribal advice to adopt and support state efforts to revamp sentencing and corrections policies and programs based on the best research evidence of practices shown to be effective in reducing recidivism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Central Council urge each chief justice and state court administrator to work with members of the executive and legislative branches as well as tribes appropriate to promote policies and practices that place properly identified offenders in corrections programs and facilities shown to be effective in reducing recidivism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Central Council urge all members of the judiciary to educate themselves about the effectiveness of community-based corrections programs in their jurisdictions and to advocate and, when appropriate, make use of those programs shown to be effective in reducing recidivism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President and the Executive Council to form a committee to work with the State, corrections facilities and other tribal entities to design and implement programs that will reduce the recidivism rate for Alaska Natives.

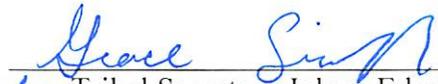
ADOPTED this 16th day of April 2015, by the Eightieth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



for: Tribal Secretary Jolene Edenshaw