



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Tubbs Jones Applauds Progress of Fugitive Safe Surrender Program**

**Cleveland, OH** - Today, Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones congratulated U.S. Marshal Peter J. Elliot and the entire United States Marshals Service on another positive step forward in implementing the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program. After 12 months of planning, more than 1,300 fugitives surrendered peacefully to the law over four days at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in Phoenix, Arizona.

From Wednesday through Saturday last week, more than 1,300 people in trouble with the law - nearly 300 with outstanding felony warrants - voluntarily surrendered to local and federal authorities at a temporary community court established in an administrative building next to Pilgrim Rest. Many had their cases heard by a judge and completed on the spot, others received future court dates, and a small number - fewer than 50 - were arrested.

The Fugitive Safe Surrender Program was initiated by Peter J. Elliott, United States Marshal for the Northern District of Ohio. The program is a faith-based project that encourages felony fugitives to voluntarily surrender, without offering amnesty. The goal was to reduce the risk to neighborhoods in which fugitives hide, as well as to law enforcement officers who pursue fugitives, and to the fugitives themselves.

In May of this year Congresswoman Tubbs Jones introduced the Fugitive Safe Surrender Act, which formally authorizes, for the next three fiscal years, a federal appropriation to fund the Fugitive Safe Surrender Program within the Justice Department. Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH) introduced companion legislation in the Senate. The language for their legislation was added to the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, which passed both the House and Senate. The bill was signed into law by President George W. Bush on July 27, 2006.

"I am extremely excited about the success of the Fugitive Safe Surrender program," said Rep. Tubbs Jones. "The program is another critical step in breaking the cycle of criminality in this country. By providing a safe and non violent place for people on the run with outstanding warrants to meet their obligation to society, we can help these offenders begin the process of breaking down barriers to successful community re-entry and reduce recidivism."

Congresswoman Tubbs Jones is also an original co-sponsor of the "Second Chance Act," H.R. 1704. This legislation would allocate \$110 million towards a variety of re-entry programs. One of the main components of the bill is the funding of demonstration projects that would provide ex-offenders with a coordinated continuum of housing, education, health, employment, and mentoring services. This broad array of services would provide stability and make the transition for ex-offenders easier, in turn reducing recidivism.