

## SOUTHEAST TEXAS CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

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## SOUTHEAST TEXAS CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION

**OPPOSING THE SUNSET COMMISSION WITH REGARDS TO ABOLISHING THE TEXAS JUVENILE PROBATION COMMISSION (TJPC), AND THE SOUTHEAST TEXAS CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDS THAT TJPC REMAIN AS AN INDEPENDENT STAND-ALONE STATE AGENCY.**

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, at a specially called meeting of the Southeast Texas Chief's Association on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008, held in the City of Conroe, Texas;

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Texas Chief's Association is a professional association comprised of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers representing Southeast Texas, and

**WHEREAS**, the Sunset Commission staff completed their analysis of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and the Texas Youth Commission and released their recommendations on November 11, 2008, and

**WHEREAS**, the Sunset Commission staff recommend the elimination of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and the Texas Youth Commission and the creation of a new agency to be called the Texas Juvenile Justice Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and the Texas Youth Commission have separate missions:

- Texas Juvenile Probation Commission: to work with the counties to develop and oversee a local, continuum of community based services;
- Texas Youth Commission: to operate institutions for the most serious offenders and provide specialized services, and

**WHEREAS**, the Sunset Commission Staff Report focuses on the management problems at the Texas Youth Commission while acknowledging numerous areas where the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission has been successful; and

**WHEREAS**, the juvenile probation services in Texas in partnership with the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission has risen to meet and even exceed the challenges of the 1995 juvenile justice reforms, including the reduction of commitments to the Texas Youth Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the juvenile probation departments handle ninety five percent (95%) of the juvenile justice referrals committing only five percent (5%) of the most significant offenders to the Texas Youth Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, funding for juvenile probation services is, on a statewide average, seventy percent (70%) local money and only thirty percent (30%) state money; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Texas Chief's Association feels that Ms. Cherie Townsend, newly appointed Executive Director of the Texas Youth Commission, has the experience, intellect, passion, and skills to provide transformational leadership to the Texas Youth Commission and should be afforded the opportunity to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Texas Chief's Association supports the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission remaining a separate independent stand-alone state agency; and

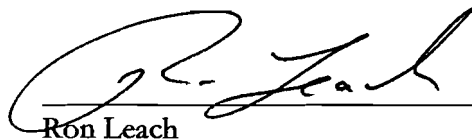
**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Texas Chief's Association recommends the composition of the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission's Board include three (3) Chief's representing large, medium and small County Juvenile Probation Departments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Texas Chief's Association recommends that the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission create a Standard Development Committee to develop and recommend standard revisions to the Board. Said committee would be comprised of both practitioners and TJPC staff

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Texas Chief's Association agrees with the Sunset Commission Staff Report's recommendations 1.3 and 1.4 regarding the establishment of a pilot funding program, agrees with 1.5 of consolidating TJPC's funding, agrees with 1.6 of considering past performance in awarding Community Corrections funds, agrees with 1.8 to give Juvenile Courts access to TYC Youth's progress, agrees with 1.9 requiring the adoption of a memorandum of understanding with TCOOMMI, and agrees with 1.10 to require a five (5) year Juvenile Justice Plan, with all these agreed recommendations that should be mandated for TJPC as an independent, stand-alone state agency; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Southeast Texas Chief's Association opposes the recommendation of the Sunset Commission to abolish the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and vigorously recommends that the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission remains as an independent stand-alone State agency in partnership with one hundred sixty-six (166) juvenile probation departments in Texas.

**ADOPTED** this the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, 2008.



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Ron Leach

Chair, Southeast Texas Chief's Association

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of Montgomery County