

## *Draft Resolution Proposed by the Border Relations Committee*

### **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, our sister city of Ciudad Juárez is being plagued by an unprecedented wave of acts of criminal violence that has not been seen in Ciudad Juárez in the past;

**WHEREAS**, the results of these acts has brought enormous pain to thousands of residents of both Ciudad Juárez and El Paso;

**WHEREAS**, the Paso del Norte bi-national community is gravely concerned by these monstrous acts;

**WHEREAS**, many of the perpetrators of these acts are closely tied to the illegal drug business;

**WHEREAS**, many other opportunistic criminals have found it timely to increase their criminal activities in the face of a chaotic situation that has overwhelmed the capacity of the local governments to cope with the violence;

**WHEREAS**, this drug war has lasted longer than last 6 wars (Iraqi Freedom, Gulf War, Vietnam War, Korean War, World War II, World War I) combined, due to the fact that the drug policies of our two nations have focused on incarceration rather than prevention and rehabilitation;

**WHEREAS**, the continued impunity of these crimes constitutes a frontal threat to the rule of law in our bi-national community; and

**WHEREAS**, we, the residents of the City of El Paso, seek to continue to strengthen our bonds with the residents of our sister city and further desire to take action to promote their well being of security and safety as well as ours.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**, hereby:

1. Convey their solidarity with the people of Ciudad Juárez in the face of the multiple heinous acts of violence being committed against our bi-national community;
2. Express their sincerest condolences and deepest sympathy to the families of those who have fallen victim to this wave of violence;
3. Condemn all unlawful acts of malicious violence, persecution, intimidation, terrorization, and harassment that are being perpetrated on our bi-national community in the Region of Paso del Norte by organized and non-organized criminals;

4. Urge the federal government of the United States of America to come to the aid of our besieged sister city, by
  - a. Strongly supporting and funding the work of the El Paso Police Department and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agency in order to stem the tide of illegally acquired and exported weapons to Mexico;
  - b. Supporting the enforcement of current laws and legislation to stiffen the penalties on persons who illegally traffic weapons across our border;
  - c. Supporting the enforcement of current penalties and the legislation to stiffen the penalties on persons who illegally traffic chemical agents used in the manufacturing of illicit drugs;
  - d. Strongly supporting and funding the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, the Internal Revenue Service and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency in investigating and prosecuting aggressively all money laundering activities carried out in the United States and to collaborate with the Mexican law enforcement agencies to do the same in Mexico;
  - e. Supporting and funding the efforts of the El Paso Police Department and the El Paso County Sheriffs Office, Texas Department of Public Safety, and other law enforcement agencies in international bridge operations to detect vehicle theft, gun smuggling, money laundering and other cross-border criminal activity;
  - f. Supporting and funding greater efforts to reduce drug consumption in the United States;
  - g. Releasing the remaining funds already authorized and appropriated under the Merida Initiative; and
  - h. Ultimately, supporting legislation that examines the nation's policies on drugs with a focus on rehabilitation rather than incarceration;
5. Urge the federal government of the Republic of Mexico to come to the aid of our beleaguered and besieged sister city, by
  - a. Increasing federal efforts to help Ciudad Juárez and the State of Chihuahua to reduce the levels of violence;
  - b. Supporting greater efforts to reduce drug consumption in Mexico; and
  - c. Ultimately, support legislation that examines the Republic of Mexico's policies on drugs with a focus on rehabilitation rather than incarceration.

APPROVED this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of January 2009.

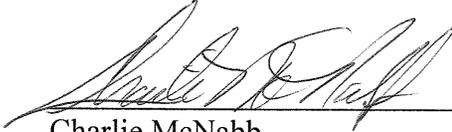
**CITY OF EL PASO**

\_\_\_\_\_  
John F. Cook  
Mayor

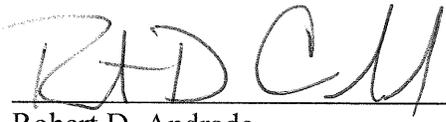
**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richarda Duffy Momsen  
City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charlie McNabb  
City Attorney

**APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert D. Andrade  
Executive Assistant to Mayor

CITY CLERK DEPT.  
08 DEC 29 PM 5:02