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COPPIN STATE COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT

*National
Service*

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 200500
Dear President Clinton,

We have answered your call for national service and community participation. We also totally agree that our streets must become safe again. On March 18 through March 21, 1993, a group of student leaders met at the campus of Coppin State College to exchange ideas about how we could best approach the problem of homicide on our streets.

We believe, Mr. President, that our future depends on how we approach it now and build a secure world for our children and generations yet unborn.

Enclosed are the recommendations of the summit from the student leaders who strongly believe that we must do all we can to reduce violence on our streets. Some of the recommendations require executive action and we are hopeful that you will give our recommendations some consideration.

Mr. President, we have answered your charge to us to play a part in our future.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Solomon OmO-Osagie II
Solomon OmO-Osagie II

President



Student Senate
2500 West North Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21216-3698 (301) 383-5862



REGIONAL SUMMIT

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION REGIONAL SUMMIT ON "HOMICIDE IN URBAN AREAS"

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 1993 REGIONAL SUMMIT OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT LEADERS ON "HOMICIDE IN URBAN AREAS" HELD MARCH 18 THROUGH MARCH 21, 1993.

WE RECOMMEND A ZERO TOLERANCE APPROACH TO ALLOWING THE DRUG TRADE TO FLOURISH WITHIN OUR SOCIETY AND WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE MAIN DEFENSE IN FIGHTING THE WAR ON DRUGS.

WE RECOMMEND A STRONGER EMPHASIS ON CONVICTIONS OF DRUG KINGPINS WHO BRING DRUGS INTO THE COUNTRY, AS WELL AS, THOSE WHO PEDDLE NARCOTICS ON THE STREET CORNERS.

IT IS OUR CONVICTION THAT ADDICTS SHOULD BE TREATED AS PEOPLE WITH A HEALTH PROBLEM, AND NOT AS CRIMINALS TO BE HOUSED AND JAILED. IT IS BOTH CHEAPER AND MORE BENEFICIAL TO TREAT ADDICTION AS A HEALTH PROBLEM INSTEAD OF OVERBURDENING THE ALREADY BACKLOGGED CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.



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WE BELIEVE THERE MUST BE A JOINT EFFORT BETWEEN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, AND PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES, AS WELL AS, A RESTRUCTURING OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL COORDINATION OF JURISDICTION LAWS SO THAT THE WAR ON DRUGS CAN REALLY BEGIN. WE FEEL THAT JURISDICTION LAWS PREVENT A CONCENTRATED EFFORT TO ERADICATE DRUGS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES.

WE PROPOSE RAISING THE LEGAL AGE TO PURCHASE HANDGUNS TO TWENTY-FIVE, WITH A MANDATORY TWO WEEK WAITING PERIOD. AS PART OF THIS PROPOSAL, WE FEEL THAT A QUESTIONNAIRE SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED TO ESTABLISH A VALID REASON TO PURCHASE A GUN INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, A LICENSE TO HUNT, A PERMIT TO COLLECT HANDGUNS, AND/OR AS A VALID JOB REQUIREMENT.

WE RECOMMEND THAT A LIMITATION BE PLACED ON THE PURCHASE OF ASSAULT WEAPONS TO ONCE A YEAR, OR ONCE IN A LIFETIME BECAUSE HANDGUNS, AND SUBMACHINE GUNS ARE THE LEADING CAUSE OF HOMICIDE IN OUR CITIES, AND ONLY SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, AND MILITARY



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PERSONNEL. THE HANDGUN'S MAIN AND ONLY PURPOSE IS TO KILL, NOT TO HUNT OR TO USE AS A TARGET PRACTICE. THEREFORE IT SHOULD NOT BE MADE AVAILABLE AT GUN COLLECTOR SHOWS WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING A PERMIT.

DRUG USE AFFECTS THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN SOCIETY.

WE RECOMMEND THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SHIFT TO A 50\50 ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO PREVENTION OF DRUG ABUSE, TREATMENT, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS INSTEAD OF A 70\30 ALLOCATION IN FAVOR OF CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.

COMMUNITY POLICING EFFORTS HAVE HAD A PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON LOWERING THE NUMBER OF HOMICIDES IN OUR CITIES. WE RECOMMEND THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES PROVIDE COMMUNITY LEADERS WITH TRAINING IN CONFLICT MEDIATION, DOMESTIC, AND RACE RELATIONS COUNSELING AND NEED TO KNOW THEIR COMMUNITIES. THIS WILL PREVENT CONFLICTS FROM RESULTING TO FATAL ENCOUNTERS.

WE RECOMMEND THAT CONFLICT RESOLUTION CLASSES



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SHOULD BE INSTITUTED AS A GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL TO POST-BACCALAUREATE EDUCATION TO HELP INDIVIDUALS LEARN MEDIATION TACTICS WHICH INVOLVE COMMUNICATION, AND UNDERSTANDING WHICH IN TURN WILL REDUCE VIOLENCE, AND RETALIATION.

WE RECOMMEND A FEDERAL MICROCHIP TRACKING SYSTEM TO TRACE CRIMES, INSTEAD OF A SERIAL NUMBER WHICH CAN BE REMOVED.

WE RECOMMEND THAT PLEA BARGAINS SHOULD NOT BE EXTENDED TO REPEAT OFFENDERS OF HOMICIDE, AND VIOLENT CRIMES. THERE MUST BE A FIVE (5) YEAR MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCING REQUIREMENTS FOR VIOLENT CRIMINALS.

WE RECOMMEND THAT THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE TO OUR FAMILY INFRASTRUCTURE. THERE SHOULD BE A REGULATION OF PROGRAMS WHICH ADVOCATE VIOLENCE, UNDERAGE SEX, AND THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS. PARENTS ALSO NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTIONS OF THEIR CHILDREN INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO



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FINES FOR HAVING A GUN WITHIN THE HOME THAT DOES NOT HAVE A TRIGGER LOCK, AND THE COMMISSION OF A HEINOUS CRIME WITH THAT GUN.

WE RECOMMEND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MENTORING PROGRAM FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF POSITIVE ROLE MODELS, MAINTAINING RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY, AND TO INSTITUTE A FAMILY DAY ON CAMPUSES TO TEACH CONFLICT MEDIATION, DRUG PREVENTION TECHNIQUES, AND SELF ESTEEM.

WE RECOMMEND THAT COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES BEGIN TAKING AN ACTIVE PART IN EFFECTING STRONG GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION, LEARN CONFLICT MEDIATION, AND ATTEMPT TO PREVENT HOMICIDE BY REPORTING ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES THAT THEY SEE WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES. IT IS OUR STRONG CONVICTION THAT NEW STRATEGIES MUST BE IMPLEMENTED TO ERADICATE THE HOMICIDE PROBLEM.