Memphis City Council Resolution

WHEREAS, crime, poverty and racism are issues that continue to plague cities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, children of color born in poverty have many obstacles that lead them to be introduced to the criminal justice system early in life; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1948 **The Annie E. Casey Foundation** was created through the vision of Jim Casey who firmly believed that the future chances of children depends largely on what their families are able to provide emotionally, ethically and materially; and

WHEREAS, a disproportionate number of African-Americans live in poverty in the City of Memphis which creates a disparity in the resources available to many children throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, **The Annie E. Casey Foundation** works on the premise that all youth involved in the juvenile justice system should have opportunities to develop into healthy, productive adults through policies, programs and practices that maximize their personal transformation while reducing the chances for unnecessary or inappropriate incarceration and protecting their legal rights; and

WHEREAS, the **Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative** was launched in 1992 by **The Annie E. Casey Foundation** to combat the growing epidemic of juvenile detention in secure facilities as well as the disproportionate percentage of youth of color detained in these institutions; and

WHEREAS, over the last eighteen years the **Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative** has worked to eliminate unnecessary detention, minimize recidivism, ensure appropriate conditions of confinement, redirect public finances to sustain successful reforms and reduce racial and ethnic disparities; and

WHEREAS, many jurisdictions across the country, including Cook County, Illinois and Clayton County, Georgia, have benefitted greatly from the work of the **Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative** seeing significant decreases in juvenile arrest and detention rates; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis City Council recognizes the benefit to our community as a whole if we partner with **The Annie E. Casey Foundation** to provide alternative avenues to rehabilitate and put our children on the path to being successful, healthy and productive adults.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MEMPHIS CITY COUNCIL wholeheartedly supports **The Annie E. Casey Foundation's** efforts to bring the **Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative** to Memphis and Shelby County to address racial and ethnic disparities within the juvenile justice system and to provide other alternatives to improve the outcomes for children of color.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Memphis City Council will support, engage and involve other needed stakeholders to assure this process is fully implemented for all children in Memphis and Shelby County.

Wanda M. Halbert
Councilwoman

Harold Collins
Chairman

Adopted: November 16, 2010