

RESOLUTION NO. 84-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST, CALIFORNIA, ENDORSING THE COURT REFORM INITIATIVE.

WHEREAS, the administration of criminal justice has become increasingly cumbersome in California under the weight of unnecessary delays and prohibitive costs caused by court inefficiency; and

WHEREAS, the California court system is hampered by the search for technical imperfections in criminal cases which permit guilty criminals to obtain reversals of convictions to commit new crimes and create new victims; and

WHEREAS, the federal judicial system already employs a jury selection process which streamlines the search for a fair and impartial jury without permitting the unlimited questioning of jurors permitted by California courts; and

WHEREAS, reforms in the preliminary hearing process, grand jury indictments and less-than-unanimous verdicts will save both time and taxpayer costs while protecting the fairness and equality of criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, technical delays in the trial process escalate the cost of court cases and reinforce the principle that justice delayed is justice denied; and

WHEREAS, denial of parole or probation can be an effective deterrent to further criminal activity if denial is made promptly; and

WHEREAS, criminal court initiative would permit judges to revoke probation, allow the Board of Prison Terms to order paroles revoked, restore the Grand Jury in indictments, adopt the federal jury selection process, permit less-than-unanimous jury verdicts in most cases, make continuances difficult to obtain, reduce the number of technical defense motions during preliminary hearings, and curtail time-consuming private questioning of jurors in death penalty cases; and

WHEREAS, the initiative does not impair the civil rights of any defendant; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Ridgecrest that the city endorse the goals of the Court Reform Initiative; and

FURTHER, that the City Council urge Ridgecrest residents to read the criminal court initiative and become better informed about its goals and positive effects; and

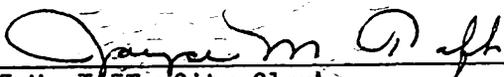
APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 21st day of February, 1984, by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Cheshire, Councilmembers Bergens and Rieger
NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None



RON CHESHIRE, Mayor

ATTEST:



JOYCE M. TAFT, City Clerk