



NORTHWEST COMMISSION

February 17, 2000

City Council of the City of Pasadena
100 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109

Attention: **Jane Rodriguez, City Clerk**

**Re: Endorsement of a "NO" vote on Proposition 21
"Gang Violence and Juvenile Crime Prevention Initiative"**

Dear Councilmembers:

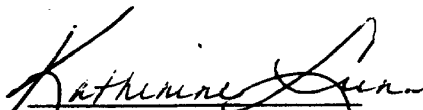
The Northwest Commission, whose role is to advise you of issues that impact Northwest Pasadena, is very concerned about the potential impact that might result from the passage of Proposition 21 on the March 7th ballot.

We believe that implementation of measures, which are in this ballot initiative, hold dire consequences for Northwest Pasadena, and for the entire City. We believe that this initiative would:

1. Push more of our youth into adult courts and adult prisons by taking away the decision of where to try a juvenile from judges and giving it to prosecutors.
2. Unfairly impact disproportionate numbers of our youth.
3. Take money away from the programs that we need in Northwest Pasadena and divert that money into the construction of new penal institutions. We are especially alarmed by the fact that the California Legislative Analyst estimates that the new jails required by Proposition 21 would cost "hundreds of millions of dollars annually" with no money allotted for crime prevention.

Accordingly, on February 16, 2000, the Northwest Commission voted to endorse a position that the City Council adopt a resolution urging all citizens of Pasadena to cast a "NO" vote for Proposition 21 on the March 7th ballot.

Sincerely,


KATHERINE LUNA, Chair
Northwest Commission

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2/28/00