

**RESOLUTION NO. 2004-32****RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THAT METHAMPHETAMINE IS ONE OF THE MOST WIDELY USED ILLICIT DRUGS AND ASKING FOR MORE STRICT PENALTIES ON THE MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THIS SUBSTANCE.**

**WHEREAS**, the problem of methamphetamine manufacturing, trafficking and abuse plagues communities across Weakley County and the State of Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") and the State of Tennessee have found the availability and demand for methamphetamine continues to increase throughout Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, methamphetamine is commonly manufactured in clandestine labs that can be found across Weakley County and are encountered almost daily by state and local law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, these clandestine methamphetamine labs pose a significant threat because lab operators are frequently armed and are often directly involved in the drug's distribution; and

**WHEREAS**, these labs also pose a potentially lethal environment hazard to both adults and children due to the unregulated and illegal use of harmful chemicals involved in the production of methamphetamine; and

**WHEREAS**, the DEA estimates Tennessee now accounts for 75 percent of the methamphetamine lab seizures in the Southeast; and

**WHEREAS**, Weakley County has also seen a significant increase in the activities of structured methamphetamine trafficking groups; and

**WHEREAS**, there is anticipation of an increase in methamphetamine use in Weakley County as the drug gains popularity over other abused drugs; and

**WHEREAS**, the problem of methamphetamine manufacturing, trafficking and abuse is particularly destructive to the children in our state. The Tennessee Department of Children's Services has observed a sharp increase in the number of children placed into protective custody as a result of methamphetamine seizures; and

**WHEREAS**, methamphetamine is a powerfully addictive and violent drug. Its use can result in fatal disorders, brain damage, liver damage, chronic depression, paranoia and other physical and mental problems. The drug also results in damage and destruction of family life and excessive costs to society; and

**WHEREAS**, this County Commission recognizes methamphetamine as a clear and present danger to the health and well being of our children and our general population; and

**WHEREAS**, this County Commission desires to work with law enforcement, the healthcare industry, community agencies and other interested stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategy for addressing methamphetamine manufacturing, trafficking and abuse.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Weakley County, meeting in regular session on this 17th day of May, 2004 that:

**SECTION 1.** That the County Commission urges the General Assembly to address this problem by enacting legislation penalizing the manufacturing, trafficking, and abuse of methamphetamines at least as severely as neighboring states.

**SECTION 2.** That law enforcement and judicial authorities continues to make every effort to eliminate this scourge from our society.

**SECTION 3.** That all citizens of Weakley County be urged to report and prosecute all suspicious illegal drug activity in their communities.

**SECTION 4.** That all parents and teachers warn the youth of Weakley County of the dangers that can result from the use of this illegal drug.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the County Clerk is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the General Assembly representing Weakley County.

Sponsor:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor:

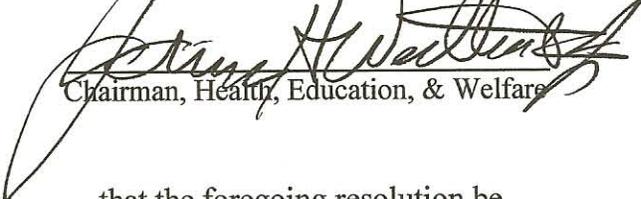
  
\_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledged and Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chairman, Public Safety Committee

Acknowledged and Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Chairman, Health, Education, & Welfare

Motion made by Commissioner Vincent that the foregoing resolution be adopted; Motion seconded by Commissioner Baltz.

Upon being put to a roll call vote, Motion carried by a vote of 15 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Passed and 3 Absent.

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ron Gifford, County Mayor

ATTESTED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pat Scarbrough, County Clerk

This the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2004.