

Re-Focus Border Patrol Operations to Interdiction at the Border

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4 **WHEREAS** there has been an expansion of mission, facilities, and personnel of the U.S.
5 Border Patrol under the Department of Homeland Security including plans for
6 increased detention capabilities;

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8 **WHEREAS** this expansion comes at a time of reduced funding for basic government
9 services;

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11 **WHEREAS** the US Border Patrol is placing random checkpoints on highways away
12 from the border and conducting internal patrols within communities;

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14 **WHEREAS** the location of checkpoints, the frequency of stops, and the venues selected
15 for community surveillance raise concerns of racial profiling;

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17 **WHEREAS** ordinary crime control is the responsibility of local law enforcement
18 agencies and Border Patrol intrusion into their jurisdictions interferes with community
19 policing strategies that build long-term relationships of trust and accountability;

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21 **WHEREAS** judicial precedent states that checkpoints must have an actual connection
22 with substantial traffic from a proximate border and are not to be used for ordinary
23 crime control purposes, raising questions about the legality of the current program; and

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25 **WHEREAS** Congressman Norm Dicks and Senator Maria Cantwell have expressed
26 similar concerns in letters to Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security;

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28 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Central
29 Committee, call for a suspension of expanded Border Patrol activities away from the
30 border until their utility, legality and constitutionality have been determined by the U.S.
31 Congress and courts;

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33 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that during this suspension we call for an
34 evaluation of the utility of the current expansion of Border Patrol mission, facilities and
35 personnel, and an evaluation of the opportunity costs of this federal expenditure while
36 core government services are being cut for lack of funding;

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38 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call on local law enforcement
39 officers to continue to uphold their sworn oath to protect the constitutional rights and
40 liberties of the members of our communities; and

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43 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic
44 Central Committee, urge our elected federal officials to pursue a reformed approach to
45 securing our border which focuses on interdiction at the border, preserves
46 constitutional protections and respects local law enforcement.
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49 Submitted by the Jefferson County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic
50 Central Committee for consideration at its April 25, 2009 meeting in Tacoma. (Date
51 Submitted 4/8/2009)
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53 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" on this resolution at
54 its April 24, 2009 meeting in Tacoma.
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56 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its April 25, 2009 meeting in Tacoma.