American Jail Association Resolution

Juveniles in Jails

WHEREAS, juveniles charged with certain major crimes in most States may be legally housed in jails, and

WHEREAS, juveniles certified to stand trial as an adult in most States may be legally housed in jails, and

WHEREAS, according to law in most States, juveniles must be housed separately from adult inmates and this may result in costly additional expenditures for staff and training, and

WHEREAS, juveniles, if housed with adult criminals, may fall victim to homosexual rape and other violence, and

WHEREAS, juveniles, while they may meet the requirements to stand trial as adults, may be found innocent of the crime, and

WHEREAS, juveniles housed in adult jails may use the experience to escalate their criminal standing with peers when returned to society, and

WHEREAS, the care and legal requirements of housing juveniles are not a part of an adult jail facility’s responsibilities, and require specially trained staff and specially designed programming which are not readily available in an adult facility, and

WHEREAS, the American Jail Association is dedicated to the safe, secure, and humane care, and treatment of all prisoners in adult jail facilities through constitutionally managed jails;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

the American Jail Association be opposed in concept to housing juveniles in any jail unless that facility is specifically designed for juvenile detention and staffed with specially trained personnel.

Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on May 22, 1990.
Revised on May 19, 1993.
Re-affirmed on May 3, 2008, by the AJA Board of Directors in Sacramento, California.