

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
JOINT RESOLUTION NO 03 - 017**

**DECLARING WAR ON METH;
CLOSING DRUG HOUSES IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS; AND
DEVELOPING A PLAN TO IMPROVE SAFETY FOR OUR FAMILIES AND
NEIGHBORHOODS**

WHEREAS, 70% of criminal cases in our local courts are drug related; and

WHEREAS, 'street crime', such as shoplifting, break-ins, and identity/auto theft, is often related to addicts supporting their habit; and

WHEREAS, neighborhood drug houses bring a culture of crime, violence, and toxic wastes into the immediate neighborhood.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Snohomish County Council, the Snohomish County Executive, the Snohomish County Sheriff, the Snohomish County Prosecutor, and the Snohomish County Clerk do jointly declare that they intend to partner to close drug houses, reduce illegal drug use, and increase the safety of family neighborhoods through the following action plan.

Section 1. The Snohomish County Council, the Snohomish County Executive, the Snohomish County Sheriff, the Snohomish County Prosecutor, and the Snohomish County Clerk make it a high priority to develop and implement a plan to close neighborhood drug houses and reduce illegal drug use. Impacted county departments are requested to develop and submit a separate budget proposal for council consideration in the 2004 budget that supports the county's initiative "Reducing Neighborhood Level Drug Activity, including Closing Drug Houses". Law and Justice related county departments shall consider and prioritize these efforts within their existing budget parameters and in all future requests for resources.

Section 2. The Snohomish County Council recognizes that many local efforts, including law enforcement, school districts, prosecution, treatment programs, education, and prevention, reduce the impact of illegal drug use. These efforts are detailed in the White Paper titled "Reducing Neighborhood Level Drug Activity, Including Closing Drug Houses".

Section 3. The development of a plan to ensure timely and effective closure should include but not be limited to the following:

- **Detention Facilities:** open and operate a new facility that can accommodate additional bookings from the initiative.

- **Law Enforcement:** implementation of a "Strike Team" to eradicate neighborhood drug houses and reduce illegal drug use.
- **Prosecution & Enforcement:** the Prosecutor, with Code Enforcement, the Health District, power/water utilities, and neighborhood groups, intend to close neighborhood drug houses.
- **Drug Courts:** Continuation of our successful Drug Court effort.
- **Probation:** post-sentencing supervision is an important element in reducing recidivism for drug related offenders.
- **Treatment:** expand drug treatment for offenders as it is more cost effective to break the addiction cycle than to pay jail costs.

Education, Prevention, and Community Involvement: key strategies that require consultation with our local communities.

Section 4. The County recognizes that partnering with our citizens is critical to this effort and calls upon our citizens to:

- Be alert to illegal drug use in your house, your neighborhood, your schools, and your community.
- Partner with Law Enforcement by providing prompt, reliable information about illegal drug use to support their investigations.
- Respond to prosecution efforts
- Support incarceration needs
- Support drug treatment programs to return drug abuse offenders to contributing members of society

APPROVED THIS 14th DAY OF May, 2003

Bob Drewel, County Executive

Gary Nelson, Council Chair

John Koster, Council Vice-Chair

Kirke Sievers, Councilmember

Dave Gossett, Councilmember

Jeff Sax, Councilmember

Rick Bart, Sheriff

Pam Daniels, Clerk

Janice Ellis, Prosecutor