



CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

August 7, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted By: Mark J. Gluba, Deputy City Manager

Subject: **Approval to Prepare a Crime Fact Sheet and Letter Urging State Legislative Action to Mitigate Negative Impacts upon Public Safety Resulting from the Passage of AB 109 and Propositions 47 and 57**

OVERVIEW

Recommendation – That the City Council authorize staff to:

1. Draft a “Take Back our Community” fact sheet regarding Pomona crime statistics;
2. Draft a letter urging the Governor, State Senate and State Assembly to develop and adopt legislation to mitigate negative impacts on local public safety arising from the passage of AB 109 and Propositions 47 & 57; and,
3. Authorize staff to disseminate relevant material to Governor Brown, appropriate State legislators, the City’s Legislative Lobbyist, the League of California Cities and other public safety stakeholders

Fiscal Impact – None with this action.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Recently enacted legislation including Assembly Bill 109, Proposition 47 and soon to be effective Proposition 57 has negatively impacted public safety in cities throughout California, including the City of Pomona. A coalition of San Gabriel Valley City Managers, working in conjunction with public safety professionals, has begun a three point process, named *Take Back our Community*, in an effort to address these public safety concerns. Staff seeks Council direction on whether the City of Pomona shall participate in the *Take Back our Community* campaign.

DISCUSSION

During the past several years, State legislative changes have made fundamental alterations to the fabric of California’s criminal justice system. Many of those changes have been needed and necessary, as not all crimes should be punished with jail sentences. However, the changes that have been enacted by AB 109, Proposition 47, and Proposition 57 have created a situation where

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violent and career criminals are serving little to no prison time, which has had the effect of eroding the safety of California communities.

In addition, the State legislative changes that have occurred during the past several years created an environment in California where most property crimes are now considered misdemeanors. Furthermore, court imposed prison sentences for serious violent crimes can now be uniformly reduced by the State, thereby allowing career criminals the opportunity to avoid serving an adequate amount of jail time. District Attorneys, Police Chiefs and other law enforcement professionals repeatedly point to these changes as the impetus for increases in violent and property crimes and the degradation of public safety in communities throughout California.

A coalition of San Gabriel Valley City Managers, working in conjunction with public safety professionals, has begun a three point process being called *Take Back our Community*, in an effort to address these public safety concerns. The three components of *Take Back our Community* campaign are:

1. Create a process to explain what is happening in our community when it comes to public safety. While every community will have a slightly different set of facts as to what types of crime have escalated, each City should assert its unique crime data.
2. Explain the complexity of how Prop 47, 57, and AB 109 have or shall contribute to rising crime stats.
3. Clearly establish what can a resident do – write a letter to the Legislators and Governor to demand action.

Should the City Council approve the steps above, staff will prepare a *Take Back our Community* Fact Sheet containing crime statistics that have escalated in Pomona as a result of the above referenced legislative changes and draft letters articulating the City's concerns for the Mayor's signature for transmission to appropriate legislators, the League of California Cities and the City's pro-bono legislative advocate in Sacramento.

Attachment – Sample “Take Back our Community” Fact Sheet from Glendora