

PROBATION E-GRAM



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September 7, 2016

Crime in LA County Rises Due to AB 109 & Prop 47

Data shows that crime in LA County has risen since the passage of AB 109 and Proposition 47. LA County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich called the cumulative effects of AB 109 and Prop 47 "catastrophic" and blamed these new laws for creating "negative impacts" for the upswing in crime throughout the region.



"State and local governments need concrete reforms in the criminal justice system to revert the catastrophic effects of Assembly Bill 109 and Proposition 47," Antonovich told the *Santa Clarita Valley Signal*. "These measures have created new and lasting negative impacts on public safety statewide... Assembly Bill 109 shifted thousands of offenders from state parole to county probation supervision," he said. "The expectation was based on the myth that counties would have better success at reducing recidivism rates of probationers."

According to Probation Department spokesman Reaver Bingham as told to *The Signal*, the Department is now compiling its own report on the impact of Prop 47 and AB 109 (the report will apparently be released this fall).

In a "cursory study" carried out in advance of a more thorough pending report, Probation officials determined that between November 2014 and the end of August 2015, more than half the suspects who had their crimes reduced to misdemeanors because of Prop 47 have since been arrested again. "Of those 1,361 individuals, 59 percent of them sustained at least one new arrest since then," Bingham said.

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Calendar of Events

Membership Meeting
Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016
7:30pm

**Meetings are held at the
Local 685 office**
3701 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 510
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Send Us Your Stories!

We welcome any story ideas - anything from success with a probationer, to the birth of a child or retirement of a co-worker, to the effect of staffing shortages or workload requirements on your ability to do your job.

Please email your story ideas to Cookie Lommel at clommel@afscme685.com.

[Email story ideas!](#)

Governor Brown Puts Prison

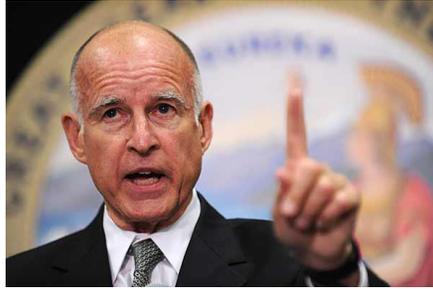
Member Benefits

AFSCME Advantage

Discounts and benefits for AFSCME members that can

Plan Before Voters; Law Enforcement Officials Weary of Prop 57

California Gov. Jerry Brown is spearheading a November ballot initiative that will make certain "nonviolent" felons eligible for early release.



But are these felons really nonviolent? Opponents say that Proposition 57's title, "The Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016" is deceptive and should instead be "Let Violent Criminals Out of Prison Early Act of 2016."

Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims says, "The Governor's main concern is to reduce capacity in State prisons to remain in compliance with the federal court decree ordering California to reduce its number of inmates and have more humane prison conditions."

Mims said that law enforcement officials are growing increasingly weary of reduced sentences for felons, and Proposition 57's passage could further endanger Californians.

According to the *Fresno Bee*, "Mims said Brown expressed concern about rising crime rates and "lifers getting out of prison." She added, "We're going to have to work together. He's concerned about the same things I am, but this is not the fix."

[Read more here](#)

Mims joined several other sheriffs in signing a mailer that features a prisoner, 77-year old Arthur Lindsey, whom they said would be released under Prop 57. Lindsey, a two-striker from LA County who was convicted of numerous sexual assault and weapons charges, was sentenced to more than 100 years in prison after being convicted on 10 charges, including rape of an unconscious person, rape by use of drugs, sexual penetration by a foreign object, oral copulation of an unconscious person, possessing a gun as a felon, and using an intoxicating substance to commit the sex crimes.

[Read more here](#)

Sheriff Mims said, "The first thing I did was find out if this guy was eligible (for release) under Proposition 57, and he was in fact," According to Mims, after serving eight years in prison, Lindsey would qualify for release under Prop. 57.

Working Group for Probation Department Oversight

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- See available self-paced courses
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Women's Leadership & Training

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In January 2016, a motion was made by Supervisors Sheila Kuehl and Mark Ridley-Thomas to form a group now called the "Working group for Probation Department oversight."



"WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors establish a working group, convened by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), comprised of the Acting Probation Chief, County Counsel and one appointee of each Supervisor to identify and assess the current landscape of entities tasked with any aspect of evaluating, monitoring and correcting the work of the Probation Department."

Since its formation, the group has met twice per month, gathering reports, hearing presentations, and discussing our future.

This group has a [website](#) that allows for public participation in the working group's efforts by providing meeting times, agendas, audio, news stories, and relevant documents. Keep an eye on the website for information. Don't be the member who picks up the newspaper one day to discover that the Department is being divided or that outside groups have gained the ability to inspect your records. Stay on top of this information and when necessary be ready to speak up!

The Los Angeles Daily News reported that "Alex Johnson, executive director of the Children's Defense Fund-California, said he hopes the working group will include the communities impacted by the Probation Department and also include the selection process for choosing the new chief."

[Read more](#)

The working group is composed of representatives from County Counsel, the Probation Department, and an appointee from each Supervisor's office. Members of the Working Group include Chair Carl Chodroff, Vice Chair Alex M. Johnson, Gabriella Holt, Don Meredith, and Jose Osuna. Presentations have been given by Judge Donna Groman, LA County Juvenile Delinquency Court; Chair Barbara Bigby and Vice Chair Cheryl Grills, Sybil Brand Commission; and David Grkinich, Bureau Chief, Professional Standards Bureau.

There have been discussions concerning:

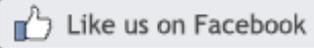
- The concept of separate oversight of the Juvenile and the Adult Probation populations;
- Developing an overall juvenile justice strategic plan as recommended by Judge Groman;
- The need for the Oversight Commission to have the authority to ensure that recommendations are pursued and acted upon;
- The importance of the courts to be engaged in the Oversight Commission process;
- The need to have clearly defined legal boundaries of the Oversight Commission; and
- The need for all stakeholder agencies to communicate with one another with the possibility of the Oversight Commission being the facilitator of

said communication.

AFSCME Local 685® 3701 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 510, Los Angeles, CA 90057

www.AFSCMELocal685.com

(213) 386-5860



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