Taking back our community
CITY OF DANA POINT
33282 Golden Lantern | Dana Point | CA |  92629
(949) 248-3500 | danapoint.org

Our State legislators can make the changes necessary to help protect our communities.
Visit danapoint.org to find more facts about AB 109 / Prop 47 / Prop 57, and a letter template that you can use to send to State legislators.
Then, contact our State legislators and ask them to make the criminal justice system changes needed to ensure that violent and career criminals are kept out of our communities.

Governor Jerry Brown
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WHAT YOU CAN DO...

Only the State can make the criminal justice system changes needed to ensure that violent and career criminals are kept off of our streets, and getting educated about the facts is the first thing that you can do to make a difference.
Certainly, not every crime deserves punishment through jail time. However, the changes made by AB 109, Prop 47, and Prop 57 have allowed violent and career criminals opportunity to avoid either jail time or rehabilitative programs.
Based on the provisions of AB 109, Prop 47, and Prop 57, the definition of what constitutes a violent crime has been eroded, and in California today, the following crimes are classified as “non-violent”:
• Domestic Violence
• Corporal Injury to a Child
• Rape
• Hate Crime Causing Physical Injury
• Assault with a Deadly Weapon
In addition, AB 109, Prop 47, and Prop 57 have created a criminal justice system that does not take into account an individual’s criminal history, which has allowed career criminals the opportunity to avoid serving proper jail sentences.

From 2000 to 2014, there was a trend of decreasing crime in California that reversed sharply in 2015, when property crime markedly increased. The increase in California’s property crime rate stands in stark contrast with continuing decrease in the rest of the country. For the first time in 20 years, California’s rate of property crime exceeds that of the rest of the country.

To make our communities safer, the definition of what constitutes a violent crime in California needs to change. And an individual’s criminal history should be taken into account when determining the appropriate punishment.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TODAY

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Increased crime has been attributed to State legislative changes enacted through AB 109, Prop 47, and Prop 57. AB 109 transferred the responsibility of housing certain criminals from State prison to County jail facilities. However, local jail facilities were already full, which has resulted in the early release of approximately 45,000 low level criminals to relieve jail overcrowding. Prop 47 was approved by 60% of voters in 2014 and changed the following crimes from felonies to misdemeanors:

- Shoplifting, theft, forgery/fraud, where the value does not exceed $950
- Possession of illegal drugs, including cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine

Misdemeanors are minor violations with penalties up to one year in jail, but most often result in the issuance of a citation and, subsequently, probation. Felonies are more serious kinds of crime and the penalty is jail time in State prison or County jail for more than one year. Prop 57 allows the State the complete authority to release up to 30,000 inmates in California State prison back into our communities.

The challenge law enforcement limitations

The changes to our criminal justice system have placed limitations on law enforcement’s ability to respond to increases in criminal activity. Criminals convicted of the following heinous crimes have been eligible for early release:

- Attempted Murder
- Domestic Violence
- Rape
- Burglary
- Elder Abuse
- Terrorist Threats
- Lewd and Lascivious Acts with a Minor
- Battery with Serious Bodily Injury

Under Prop 47

Crimes that were previously classified as felonies are now misdemeanor.

Today, possession of illegal drugs is considered a misdemeanor. Additionally, criminals can steal as many times as they want and as long as each occurrence does not exceed $950, the crime is considered a misdemeanor.

Under Prop 57

The State has been granted total authority to release anyone they want from prison, including those convicted of the following violent and serious crimes:

- Rape by Intoxication
- Rape of an Unconscious Person
- Human Trafficking Involving Sex Act with a Minor
- Drive-By Shooting
- Assault with a Deadly Weapon
- Hate Crime Causing Physical Injury
- Corporal Injury to a Child

The effect

The limitations that State legislative changes have placed on law enforcement means that the rights of victims have been eroded as our police have fewer tools to combat crime. Communities are less safe given the changes made by AB 109, Prop 47, and Prop 57, which is reflected by increases in crime rates throughout the State of California.

In 2017, calls for service increased 11% from 2016 and 28% over the last five years.

The most significant increases City-wide were:

- 44% Narcotics Offenses
- 65% Possession of Stolen Property
- 22% Disorderly Conduct / Trespassing

In California, crime rates have also sky-rocketed. A 2015 report released by former California Attorney General Kamala Harris depicted similar disturbing statistics on increasing crime in the State.

- 166,588 victims of violent crimes. Violent crimes include homicide, rape, and assault. This represents a 10% increase (15,163 more victims) in violent crime.
- 1,023,828 victims of property crimes. Property crimes include burglary, car theft, and larceny. This represents an 8.1% increase (77,146 more victims) in property crimes.

It is clear that recent state legislative changes to our criminal justice system have resulted in the massive erosion of our ability to keep our communities safe.

To the City of Claremont for contributing this information.