



TBOC Newsletter

Issue 3: February 2018

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TBOC Special Alert: Ballot Initiative Update

Keep California Safe

A Project of the California Public Safety Partnership Issues Committee

Many of you may have received a request recently on behalf of a group called, [Keep California Safe](#). This group has developed the proposed “[Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2018](#)” initiative, which began collecting signatures on January 11, 2018, in order to qualify for the November 2018 ballot. As you may recall, we have been tracking this initiative closely and included information about their progress in our January TBOC newsletter.

Of particular note for our TBOC members, the proposed initiative includes key components that further the objectives of our coalition, which include:

- A fix for Prop 57, by reclassifying certain crimes from “nonviolent” to “violent” felonies.
- Adjustments to address serial theft offenders benefiting from Prop 47, by making theft chargeable as a felony on the third theft event.
- Adjustments to help address the negative impacts of AB 109, by requiring an

individual's entire criminal history be considered when deciding parole, and requiring a hearing to determine if an individual should be sent back to State prison following their third "flash hold."

Also of note, we wanted to share that the Taking Back Our Community Coalition Steering Committee has held discussions with initiative organizers to share our feedback in hopes that California will finally adopt some common-sense criminal justice system reforms that will reduce the negative impacts of AB 109, Prop 47, and Prop 57.

Recently several coalition members have asked if the TBOC group will be taking a formal position on the initiative. The Taking Back Our Community Steering Committee has felt that it is appropriate and important to formally advocate for legislation to address public safety issues in California to further our cause, and we will certainly take positions on any proposed legislation in Sacramento. However, proposition initiatives are inherently political. Given that our organization is funded with public tax-payer dollars, we want to be mindful not to wade into the political arena.

To that end, the Taking Back Our Community Steering Committee has felt it best that our group not take a formal position on the proposed ballot initiative. However, we do encourage each and every city to evaluate the merits of the proposed initiative independently to determine whether your city wants to formally support the initiative with a resolution by your City Council. A sample City Council resolution, drafted by the California Police Chiefs Association, is attached for your reference. For more information regarding the proposed "[Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2018](#)" initiative, please visit their website at: www.keepcalsafe.org

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at info@takingbackourcommunityca.com.

Attachments:

[Sample City Council Resolution](#)

[Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2018 Fact Sheet](#)



Monrovia, CA. Monrovia City Manager Oliver Chi presented information on the new legislative landscape in California due to AB 109 and Prop 47 on January 17, 2018.

Recent Crime Uptick in La Cañada Flintridge Prompts Action

After a series of recent break-ins, including two armed home invasions, concerned residents in La Cañada Flintridge are turning to the City for help. While the City's crime statistics have seen an overall downtrend over the past five years, there has been a noticeable uptick in crime since November 2017.

In response to the community's growing concerns regarding public safety, La Cañada Flintridge will be holding a Town Hall Education Forum that aims to 1) Educate residents on recent legislative changes at the State level, including AB 109, Prop 47 and Prop 57, and potential legislation under consideration, featuring Michelle Hanisee, President of the Association of Deputy District Attorneys for Los Angeles County; 2) Inform residents of the City's response thus far, including joining Taking Back Our Community, with insights from Oliver Chi; 3) Provide useful tools

on how residents can better protect themselves; and 4) Provide a forum to hear from residents about their specific concerns. The forum will also feature Michael Davitt, Mayor of La Cañada Flintridge and Christopher Blasnek, Captain of the Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station.

All TBOC members are invited to attend this important Town Forum; a large attendance is expected at this event.

La Cañada Flintridge Town Hall Education Forum

Monday, March 5, 2018 at 6 p.m.

Lanternman Auditorium, 4491 Cornishon Ave.

La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011

Los Angeles Times: ["Alarmed by crime, residents demand help from city; town hall to be set"](#)

LAPD shifts hundreds of officers from specialized units and administrative positions to boost patrols amid rising violent crime

LAPD is shifting more officers into patrol in order to respond to the increase in 911 calls as violent crime continues to rise. Robert Harris, who serves on the board of directors for the Los Angeles Police Protective League – the officers' rank-and-file union – called the move “a necessary step” but he said it was “a triage approach” to deal with the “crisis” facing patrol officers.

“You have to remember that other important functions are having their personnel taken from them; you have the Gangs and Narcotics Division that has lost officers and you have detectives from the Vice Division,” he said. “You have officers that were doing very important work moved from those involuntarily and sent back to patrol.”

While the number of homicides has dropped LAPD has seen overall violent crime increase over the past four consecutive years after more than a decade of declines. Without any changes to the criminal justice system, LAPD Chief Beck states that the longer term fix would be to bolster the number of officers the department hires especially as the city prepares to host the 2028 Summer Olympics.

Daily News: ["LAPD Shifts Hundreds of Officers to Boost Neighborhood Patrols Amid Rising Violent Crime"](#)

Only 13 arrests in 7 years of SF online auto break-in reports, DA says

In San Francisco more than 81,000 online reports of auto break-ins were filed over the past seven years yet officials with the district attorney's office say a mere 13 cases resulted in arrests. The news of the trifling total comes as the number of vehicle break-ins has exploded in the city, reaching an all-time high last year. In 2017, there were more than 30,000 car break-ins in San Francisco.

San Francisco's former Chief Suhr and police union President Martin Halloran attributed much of the spike in property crime to recent statewide criminal justice reform efforts, namely Proposition 47.

SF Gate: ["Only 13 arrests in 7 years of SF online auto break-in reports, DA says"](#)

A Downtown Crime Emergency

The rising crime rate in Downtown Los Angeles is alarming. Los Angeles Downtown News reported 2017 statistics from LAPD's Central Division with a 21% increase in violent crime from the previous year, an increase in aggravated assaults of 31% and a doubling of murders from 11 in 2016 to 21 in 2017.

In the editorial posted by DT News, it is stated that if Downtown LA is to remain a thriving hub for business, residential life, culture, tourism and investment, then this must be treated as an emergency. Immediate and encompassing action is required. It is imperative that the police department, city leaders including elected officials, and an array of community stakeholders all come together and proceed with a sense of urgency.

Los Angeles Downtown News: ["A Downtown Crime Emergency"](#)

Membership Updates

Taking Back Our Community is appreciative of all the cities who have joined the coalition thus far. We are pleased to report, the coalition continues to grow. Please welcome the newest members, the cities of **Barstow, Downey, and Highland.**

COALITION MEMBERS



As TBOC moves forward, we would like to hear back from members. If there are crime-victim stories from your community or updated statistics that you are willing to share with the group or even perhaps have featured in an upcoming marketing video, please let us know by forwarding an email to:

Info@TakingBackOurCommunityCA.com.



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