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City Council Unanimously Opposes Proposition 57

State Ballot Initiative Allows Early Release of Non-Violent Offenders

Beverly Hills, CA – The Beverly Hills City Council has directed staff to prepare a resolution opposing Proposition 57, which allows prisoners convicted of non-violent felonies to be eligible for parole after serving the full prison term for their primary offense. At the Aug. 30 City Council meeting, councilmembers unanimously opposed the proposition, which is on the Nov. 8, 2016 ballot, because of the potential impact it could have on crime in the community. The resolution is scheduled to be on the Sept. 20 City Council agenda.

The bill is intended to ease over-crowding in prisons and offer leniency to inmates with a history of good behavior. It also would allow judges, rather than prosecutors, to decide whether to try certain juveniles as adults in court.

However councilmembers were concerned that a sudden increase in the number of convicted felons at liberty in California would result in an increase in property crimes. After Proposition 47, which provided for reduced penalties and prison terms for certain less serious crimes, passed in November 2014, property crime in Beverly Hills increased dramatically.

Other organizations opposed to Proposition 57 include the California District Attorneys Association, victims' rights organizations and numerous law enforcement agencies.

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