

RESOLUTION NO. 19-4193

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MURRIETA,
CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING THE REDUCING CRIME AND KEEPING
CALIFORNIA SAFE ACT OF 2020

WHEREAS, the safety of each Californian is of the utmost importance. Violent criminals should not be released early from prison; and

WHEREAS, since 2014, California has had a larger increase in violent crime than the rest of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The FBI Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report for 2017, which tracks crimes committed during the first six months of the past year in U.S. cities with populations over 100,000, indicates that violent crime increased again in most of California's largest cities; and

WHEREAS, recent changes to parole laws allowed the early release of dangerous criminals by the law's failure to define certain crimes as "violent." These changes allowed individuals convicted of sex trafficking of children, rape of an unconscious person, felony assault with a deadly weapon, battery on a police officer or firefighter, and felony domestic violence to be considered "nonviolent offenders"; and

WHEREAS, as a result, these so-called "nonviolent" offenders are eligible for early release from prison after serving only a fraction of the sentence ordered by a judge; and

WHEREAS, this measure reforms the law so felons who violate the terms of their release can be brought back to court and held accountable for such violations; and

WHEREAS, nothing in this act is intended to create additional "strike" offenses which would increase the state prison population, nor is it intended to affect the ability of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to award educational and merit credits; and

WHEREAS, recent changes to California law allow individuals who steal repeatedly to face few consequences, regardless of their criminal record or how many times they steal; and

WHEREAS, as a result, between 2014 and 2016, California had the second highest increase in theft and property crimes in the United States, while most states have seen a steady decline. According to the California Department of Justice, the value of property stolen in 2015 was \$2.5 billion with an increase of 13 percent since 2014, the largest single-year increase in at least ten years; and

WHEREAS, grocery store operators around the state have seen unprecedented increases in the amount of losses associated with shoplifting in their stores, with some reporting up to 150 percent increases in these losses from 2012 to present, with the largest jumps occurring since 2014; and

WHEREAS, shoplifting incidents have started to escalate in such a manner that have endangered innocent customers and employees; and

WHEREAS, individuals who repeatedly steal often do so to support their drug habit. Recent changes to California law have reduced judges' ability to order individuals convicted of repeated theft crimes into effective drug treatment programs; and

WHEREAS, California needs stronger laws for those who are repeatedly convicted of theft related crimes, which will encourage those who steal to support their drug problem to enter into existing drug treatment programs. This measure enacts such reforms; and

WHEREAS, recent changes to California law unintentionally eliminated DNA collection for theft and drug crimes. This measure restores DNA collection from persons convicted for such offenses; and

WHEREAS, permitting collection of more DNA samples will help identify suspects, clear the innocent and free the wrongly convicted, and

WHEREAS, this measure does not affect existing legal safeguards that protect the privacy of individuals by allowing for the removal of their DNA profile if they are not charged with a crime, are acquitted or are found innocent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Murrieta hereby supports the Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2020.

PASSED APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th day of December, 2019 by the City Council of the City of Murrieta, State of California



Gene Wanderlich, Mayor

ATTEST:



Stephanie D. Smith, MMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Leslie E. Devaney, City Attorney

I, Stephanie D. Smith, MMC, City Clerk of the City of Murrieta, California, do hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the City council on the 17th day of December, 2019, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Ingram, Seyarto, Vinton, White, Mayor Wunderlich
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None



City Clerk