



CITY OF MURRIETA

March 4, 2022

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer
California State Assembly
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1599 (Kiley) Proposition 47: Repeal.
Notice of SUPPORT (*As Introduced 1/3/22*)

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer,

The City of Murrieta supports AB 1599. This measure would repeal the changes made by Proposition 47, except those related to reducing the penalty for possession of concentrated cannabis and would send this measure to the voters for approval at the next statewide general election.

This strategy is one of many we support in addressing crime and its underlying causes. We remain committed to improving California's carceral systems, interrupting and ending cycles of recidivism and building a community-based system of care appropriate for meeting the needs of all community members.

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) reported in 2018 that the passage of Proposition 47 directly correlated to the uptick in larceny thefts throughout the state. In 2021, the PPIC reported that property and violent crime rates increased in Los Angeles, Oakland, San Diego, and San Francisco. Constituents throughout the state are feeling these impacts and looking to the Legislature for solutions.

The Los Angeles Times recently reported that California voters want to change Proposition 47 to reinstate tougher penalties for some crimes. This growing sentiment follows "a flurry of recent 'smash-and-grab' robberies and rail thefts that critics say is evidence that brazen criminal activity is rampant in California and too few are being held accountable".

Governor Newsom outlined in his proposed FY 2022/23 budget significant resources for enforcement and prosecution of theft offenders. This reflects how pervasive these issues are for our residents throughout the state, and impacts to communities as a whole. Proposition 47 made promises of safe neighborhoods, but the unintended consequences that followed have provided anything but. Our communities deserve better, and cities are more than ready to engage on solutions.



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Prior to Prop 47, local District Attorney Offices and the Courts had the ability to leverage a felony drug crime sentence and have the defendant enter a rehabilitation facility; in turn, the defendant would get the felony dropped. Prop 47 removed these options. The goal of reversing Prop 47 is not about incarcerating more people; it is about allowing the courts to have the authority to incarcerate if individuals do not follow through with their rehabilitation

The City of Murrieta is interested in exploring additional strategies to address the impacts of crime in our communities. This includes resources to improve community safety through prevention and early intervention programming as well as improved re-entry service provision for our formerly incarcerated community members. While these provisions have historically been the responsibility of state and county departments, cities are interested in increased collaboration to meet these urgent needs.

For these reasons, the City of Murrieta supports AB 1599. If you have any questions, or need more information about the City's position, please contact Louie Lacasella, City Manager's Office at (951) 461-6008 or llacasella@MurrietaCA.Gov.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Ingram

Jonathan Ingram
Mayor

Cc: The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer
Murrieta City Council
Senator Melissa Melendez
Assembly Member Kelly Seyarto
Erin Sasse, League of California Cities