

My approach to public safety is holistic. I support strong families and a good education system. I support job training programs. I also support early intervention programs for youth at risk (see the early intervention funding dedicated in my Initiative Petition 41). At the other end of the scale, I believe in useful work for prison inmates, so they can develop a better work ethic and sense of self. My Measure 17 (1994) provides for this, but also allows 1/2 of that work time to be dedicated to basic education and job training. This, coupled with good transition programs, can help reduce recidivism.

I have always supported drug and alcohol treatment as important elements in crime reduction. One recent media quote misstated my position. I do not believe it is a "right" for those convicted of crime to have such treatment, but it is important for society to make such treatment available for willing participants who want to change their lives.

In the midst of all of this, however, we need to hold people accountable and protect our society. This includes prison and incapacitation. Some lesser crimes may be properly handled by probation and fines or very short jail terms. Major crimes call for major consequences.

My definition of major crimes include stealing someone's identity (it takes an average of three years to repair such economic damage), breaking into someone's home, and street drug dealing. These three kinds of crimes are subject to mandatory minimum sentences in Initiative Petition 40. Some say this is for a "first offense," but that is a misnomer. These sentences will be imposed for the first **conviction**. The average felon has committed over 40 crimes before he is caught (Rand Corporation study of California prison inmates.)

Presently, residential burglars, identity thieves, and street drug dealers get probation on their first convictions (and on repeat convictions for identity thieves and drug dealers). These people are predators, and they need to be held accountable. They also need to be incapacitated for the protection of society. During their time of incapacitation, (imprisonment) we will do what we can to straighten out their lives, but we should not take the risk of leaving such predators on the streets without taking action.

Initiative Petition 40 is one plank - albeit a central one - in my public safety platform.