



RIVERSIDE CITY PROSECUTION AND CRIME REDUCTION MEASURE

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

February 9, 2016

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Why Are We Doing This?

- Community livability is a priority for Riverside, and already in place are programs to preserve the quality of life (e.g., beautification efforts, homeless outreach and public safety).
- Lacking legal ability by the City Attorney's Office to prosecute crimes that erode the City's livability – e.g., graffiti, vandalism, theft, assault and battery, and street prostitution.
- Riverside has seen a rise in these crimes over the last few years. One reason is that County District Attorney offices are struggling to keep up with more violent crimes.

"Every police chief I've talked to and sheriff. . .the crime rate is increased. We're seeing that with property crimes and the sad thing is now some serious and violent crimes."

San Bernardino County District Attorney Mike Ramos

October 2, 2015



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"We are at bone and muscle. We have been cutting for years. And been cutting the fat. And we're down to the bone and muscle. Our Deputy DA's right now in our misdemeanor (unit), they carry an average of 236 cases per attorney...so there are industry standards and there's been studies about the right number of cases per attorney and we're about double that."

Riverside County District Attorney Mike Hestrin

June 15, 2015



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"'AB 109 shifted the state's burden without adding resources to the counties,' he explained. Thousands of felons wound up in the county's jails. Thousands more ended up in the county's probation system.

The results were predictable. Police and prosecutors shifted most of their attention to violent crimes, making property crime much less of a priority. Burglaries, car thefts, grand thefts and petty thefts spiked. No surprise there."

Press-Enterprise, quoting San Bernardino County District Attorney

Mike Ramos

January 13, 2015

- Many of Riverside's neighbors – cities such as Pasadena and Anaheim, which value and protect quality of life in their communities - are already using their City Attorney's Offices to prosecute misdemeanor crimes.



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How Would This Work?

- Riverside is proposing to establish a Criminal Prosecution and Crime Reduction Program to enhance the existing tools that ensure that Riverside remains a safe and attractive community.
- The City Attorney's Office would partner with local police agencies (e.g., RPD and UCR's Campus Police) to prosecute misdemeanor crimes.
- Specialized prosecutors would work on issues such as gang prevention and prosecution, parent accountability and chronic truancy, graffiti enforcement, domestic violence, and illegal dumping.
- A Neighborhood Prosecutor Program would involve prosecutors working out of neighborhoods to aggressively and creatively combat crimes that reduce the quality of life in Riverside.
- Implementation of the Program will require approval of the City's registered voters in June 2016.



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RIVERSIDE 2.0 "TAKING RIVERSIDE'S QUALITY OF LIFE TO THE NEXT LEVEL"

- Charter amendment puts public safety front and center on "livability" goals of Riverside 2.0
- Charter amendment puts Riverside in line with other large California cities:
 - Los Angeles
 - San Diego
 - Long Beach
 - Anaheim



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What Offenses are we Talking About?

- Assault & battery
- Prostitution
- Vehicular manslaughter
- Commercial burglary
- Failing to register as a sex offender
- Child and elder abuse
- Resisting a police officer
- Animal cruelty
- Trespassing
- Vandalism & graffiti
- Domestic violence
- Lewd conduct
- Public intoxication
- Disturbing the peace
- Public nuisance



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Comparable CA Cities

CITY	POPULATION	BUDGET
Los Angeles	3,884,000	\$64,422,222
San Diego	1,356,000	\$12,273,546
Long Beach	469,428	\$ 4,371,653
Anaheim	345,012	\$ 2,584,451
Riverside	320,619	
Torrance	147,478	\$ 567,632
Pasadena	139,731	\$ 1,881,000
Inglewood	111,542	\$ 872,586
Burbank	104,709	\$ 787,094
Santa Monica	92,472	\$ 2,507,500
Hawthorne	86,199	\$ 359,228
Redondo Beach	67,815	\$ 907,929

How is the Program Being Funded

- Outside counsel expenditure savings
 - \$1 million - \$2.2 million annually
- Penalties, fines and fees
 - \$700,000 - \$1 million annually
- Business & Professions Code §17200 actions



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RIVERSIDE 2.0

" Seizing our destiny is Riverside's movement for a prosperous future."

- Neighborhood Prosecutors
- Graffiti Enforcement
- Main Street Mall Prosecution Program
- Domestic Violence Unit
- Prostitution Enforcement
- Gang Injunction/Gang Prosecution



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VIDEO



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