



= PRESS RELEASE =

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Englander Legislation Calls for Change in CA Re-Alignment Law in Response to Northridge Quadruple Homicide

Los Angeles – In response to the quadruple homicide at an unlicensed boarding house in Northridge, Councilmember Mitchell Englander introduced a resolution on Friday, Dec. 7 calling for amendments to the California “Public Safety Realignment” laws that are moving criminals from state prisons into county jails

“The alleged killer of four people in our community had a long criminal history, including violent crimes, and the fact that he was out on the street and not behind bars underscores the dangers posed by re-alignment,” said Councilmember Englander, who is Chair of the Public Safety Committee and represents Northridge. “The Realignment laws must be amended to protect our community from violent crime.”

The resolution seeks to amend the Public Safety Realignment (AB 109 and AB 117) to require that offenders with prior convictions of violent and/or serious crimes be subject to stricter supervision and/or sentencing requirements. Three Police Officers and three former California State Legislators were among the signers of the resolution. It was seconded by Councilmembers Paul Krekorian, Dennis Zine, Joe Buscaino, Paul Koretz, and Herb Wesson.

To alleviate overcrowding in the California prison system, the State Legislature and Governor adopted AB 109 and AB 117 (Public Safety Realignment), to allow non-violent, non-serious, and non-sex offender criminals to serve their sentences in County jails instead of State prisons. Realignment also shifted the post-release supervision of offenders whose current offense is a non-violent, non-serious and non-sex crime from State Parole to County Probation.

The shift in supervision to County Probation excludes inmates paroled from life terms, high-risk sex offenders, mentally disordered offenders, and offenders whose most recent offense is violent or serious. Under Realignment, however, an offender whose most recent conviction is non-violent or non-serious, but who has prior convictions of violent crime, may likely be treated the same as an offender without a prior criminal record.

The criminal history of the suspect in the Dec. 2, 2012 murder of four people in Northridge includes violent crime. His most recent conviction was a non-violent offense for possession of methamphetamine. This suggests that under realignment, the suspect avoided stricter monitoring by State Parole and/or sentencing based.

To see the resolution go to http://tiny.cc/Realignment_Reso.

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