



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF PROPOSITION 20 A BALLOT INITIATIVE TO RETURN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO FAILED AND RACIST TOUGH-ON-CRIME POLICIES

WHEREAS, Proposition 20 would authorize felony charges for repeat or organized petty theft, require tougher penalties for noncriminal parole violations, expand DNA collection for people convicted of certain nonviolent crimes, and exclude those who have been convicted of domestic violence and certain nonviolent crimes from early parole consideration; and

WHEREAS, this initiative would repeal key aspects of critical criminal justice reforms approved by California voters and the Legislature, namely the Public Safety Realignment Act (2011), Proposition 47 (2014), and Proposition 57 (2016), which have decreased incarceration and recidivism rates, prison spending, and reliance on private prison contracts; and

WHEREAS, savings from Proposition 47 have begun to fund a treatment and prevention infrastructure that millions of Californians have been unable to access for generations, and

WHEREAS, continued reallocation of our investments from prisons to community-based strategies that address and prevent crime before it occurs can lead to continued and longstanding improvements in safety; and

WHEREAS, “tough on crime” policies have been proven over and over again to be ineffective in reducing crime rates, and focusing on rehabilitation and education while diverting funding from mass incarceration towards mental health, trauma recovery, and addiction services better meets community needs; and

WHEREAS, this initiative would create costs in the tens of millions of dollars for law enforcement, corrections, and court systems at a time when local and state governments are reckoning with the failure of these systems to protect Black and brown people, in addition to facing severe budget deficits due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, from 1981 to 2011, spending on state prisons and associated correctional programs has increased by 436%, driven in part by the construction and operation of 23 new prisons, leading to an annual prison budget today of \$12 billion every year; and

WHEREAS, in California, Black men are incarcerated at ten times the rate of white men and Black women at five times the rate of white women, and any additional investments in mass incarceration and the prison-industrial complex would disproportionately impact Black communities and other communities of color; and

WHEREAS, filling California’s jails and prisons beyond their capacity does not stop cycles of chronic illness and nonviolent crime but too often destabilizes people and cuts them off from critical supports; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Council of the City of Oakland opposes Proposition 20 on the November 2020 ballot.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND
PRESIDENT KAPLAN

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
ASHA REED
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of
the City of Oakland, California