



September 13, 2013

Sent via email to Tim Cromartie, League Staff

Alan D. Wapner, Councilmember, Ontario
Chair, Public Safety Policy Committee
League of California Cities
1400 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento CA 95814

Subject: Comments Re Resolution No. 2 (Public Safety Realignment)

Dear Chair Wapner:

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Santa Rosa have reviewed Resolution No. 2, and have expressed concerns and have directed that those concerns be submitted to the Public Safety Policy Committee with request for consideration for amendment to the draft resolution prior to final submittal to the General Assembly for vote by the membership. This letter will serve to convey the Council's concerns.

The general intent of the resolution is to open discussions concerning the impact of public safety realignment on the operational and budgetary demands of municipal police departments, and we are generally supportive of such discussions.

However, we have concerns that the resolution makes several claims that are not fully supported by statement of facts or evidence and that such facts or evidence will certainly vary from region to region around the State. For example, the resolution states that certain deficiencies in jail space, probation officers, and other aspects of service exist but does not clarify what standard there may be for determining sufficiency. It may be more accurate to state that many regions are experiencing certain deficiencies and then gather either the anecdotal experiences or hard evidence to support that conclusion for the follow-on discussions. The same goes for statements declaring cause and effect of persons with mental illness of those released solely contributing to a rise in property crimes. Based upon what data? We are still early in our experiences with realignment and cause and effect may not be fully demonstrated by the existing data nor will it be evenly distributed throughout the State. We also have concerns with the request for constitutionally protected funding for this one package of services. Will such an action result in unintended consequences that are unfavorable to our communities in other ways? "Full funding for municipal police departments" will certainly vary from community to community around the State and is subject to interpretation. Our community, for example, has developed a successful partnership with our County with respect to roles and responsibilities for dealing with aspects and results of

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realignment thus far, but we find that it is too early and that we have too little data to evaluate the true impact to our community. If the intent is to seek a dedicated funding source when the current multi-year commitment of resources ends, then we may want to be more open-ended with the request. We don't want the unintended consequence to result in short-changing our County partners for many of the supportive services such as probation, mental health, housing, job training, and other rehabilitative programs which cities rely on and do not have capacity to replicate. Many of these services are also in need of expanded sources of funding.

We are very concerned that the resolution seems to generally call for city police officers to take on the role and responsibility of ten (10) day flash incarcerations for probationers. We disagree and are not in favor of cities taking on this expanded service role; we believe that such role is best situated with County probation departments. Therefore, the language should be made clear to address this as an option only for cities with appropriate jail facilities.

While the City Council supports a full discussion of the impacts of realignment based upon the experience of cities and agrees that reliable sources of funding should be determined for the comprehensive program of realignment that has been shifted from State responsibility to local governments, we recommend that the resolution should be amended to include a variety of experience throughout the State, rely on evidence-based experience, include successful practices that are occurring in some regions, and enhance the role of city officials in the partnership but not obligate municipal police departments to greater responsibility for realignment services.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these concerns. Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (707) 543-3010 or by email at kmillison@srcity.org.

Sincerely,



KATHLEEN A. MILLISON
City Manager

KAM/sks

c: Mayor Bartley and Santa Rosa City Council
Nancy Hall Bennett, League Regional Public Affairs (North Bay)

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