

# RETHINK

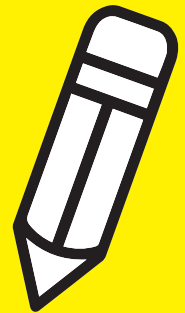
# PUBLIC SAFETY

# INITIATIVE

*is an initiative to promote responsible, restorative, and redemptive approaches to justice reform in schools and communities throughout the Inland Valley Region*

## POLICY PRIORITIES:

- Decriminalize youth through school discipline and juvenile justice reform
- Reduce prisoner recidivism and remove barriers to successful reentry
- Promote responsible and restorative solutions to gang enforcement
- Promote diversion and other alternatives in lieu of incarceration
- Prioritize substance abuse and mental health treatment as crime reduction strategies
- Increase opportunities for resentencing and reclassification through Proposition 47
- Increase representation among justice reform-minded policymakers



## DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, & POLICYMAKERS CAN:



- Prevent the unfair targeting of innocent Black and Latino residents through the gang database
- Divert people charged with relatively minor crimes, like young people, into education, job development or gang intervention programs in lieu of juvenile camps
- Keep undocumented immigrant families together by following the law and exercising discretion more fairly.
- Sentence mentally ill and drug addicted persons to rehabilitation and prevention programs
- Ensure equal protection and fair treatment of all residents under the law regardless of race, sexual orientation, and gender
- Prioritize resources for schools and education over prison and incarceration



## HELP RETHINK PUBLIC SAFETY BY:

- Sharing your voice and stories of restoration and redemption
- Making your voice heard with policy-makers
- Becoming an informed and engaged voter

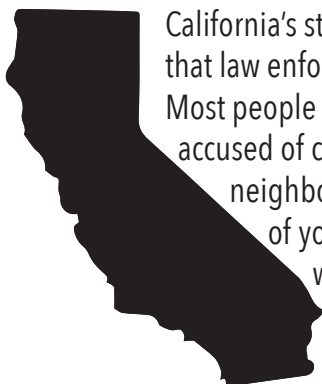


**C.O.P.E.**  
Congregations Organized for  
Prophetic Engagement

*Stay Connected* - [HTTP://COPESITE.ORG/](http://COPESITE.ORG/)

# STOP TARGETING THE INNOCENT

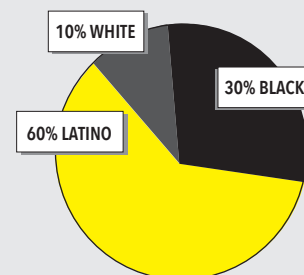
## Improve Local Accountability & Transparency for the Gang Database



California's statewide gang database, CalGang, is an electronic database that law enforcement officers use to flag youth and adults as gang affiliated. Most people are added to the database without having been arrested or accused of criminal activity. You can get added to the system based on the neighborhood you live in, physical markers-such as tattoos, the color of your skin or even if someone simply says you are in a gang without evidence. Because the CalGang database proved to be flawed, Governor Brown signed new legislation requiring more accountability and transparency for the gang database.

*\*Note: Black people represent only 8% of population in San Bernardino yet are disproportionately impacted by the database.*

*San Bernardino* GANG DATABASE  
IMPACTED POPULATIONS



### DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, & POLICYMAKERS:



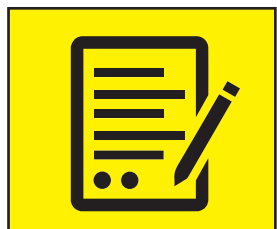
**MUST** comply with the new law, effective 2018, by requiring local law enforcement agencies to:

- Provide a written notice to the person's parent or guardian, if the person is a minor, before designating them as a suspected gang member.
- Produce detailed transparency reports on each of their shared gang databases.
- Create opportunities to challenge their inclusion in a gang database in court.

**CAN** create accessible ways for people to find out about their status in the gang database

**SHOULD** refuse to seek gang enhancements and/or impact a person's immigration status based on flawed information in the database

**SHOULD** prioritize youth development and harm reduction as gang intervention strategies.



Terrance spent 15 years in gang life and prison. There were no programs to prevent him from getting involved in gangs and crime. Desperate to change his life and prevent young people from making the mistakes he made, he formed Young Visionaries, a leadership, prevention and intervention program that serves youth in the Inland Valley community. Terrance is doing his part for public safety by working to keep thousands of youth out of gangs and prison.

**"We want a second chance but many of my peers, who are doing positive things in their communities, are unnecessarily targeted by law enforcement because they are still listed as active in the gang database."**



# TREATMENT NOT PRISON

## *Prioritizing Diversion and Alternatives to Incarceration*



Research has shown that public safety and community well-being are often best served by keeping people who commit low-level offenses out of the criminal justice system. **Diversion & alternatives to incarceration** provide ways for individuals who have broken the law to be held accountable without disrupting their ability to lead productive lives and contribute to their community.

### WHERE IT'S HAPPENING & WORKS

- *Cook County, IL; St. Clair County, IL*

After their preliminary hearing, individuals charged with misdemeanor or felony drug offenses are given access to Drug School, a ten-hour educational course on substance abuse and justice involvement. At the end of the program, prosecutors dismiss the charges, allowing the participant to immediately seek record expungement. Cook County has saved an estimated \$2,000,000 per year as a result of the case dismissals. 90% of participants have completed the program, and have been shown to be 4x less likely to obtain a new drug arrest.



### DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, & POLICYMAKERS CAN:



- Decline to prosecute low-level substance abuse and "quality of life" offenses (sleeping in cars, drug/alcohol intoxication, unlicensed street vending, vandalism, sleeping in etc.).



- Expand pre-filing and pre-plea diversion and alternative sentencing programs for both misdemeanor and felony cases to reach more people and divert people away from incarceration



- Support local and statewide reinvestment policies that have a preventative approach, including investing in youth programs, mental health care, and employment opportunities for vulnerable populations.



**Samantha**

The loss of a child in a fatal automobile accident, spiraled Samantha into years of drug addiction and a cycle of incarceration. Her first opportunity to get clean and sober was while in jail. ***"My cycle of addiction could have ended sooner if I had been sentenced to treatment instead of incarceration."*** After her release, Samantha completed her education, earned a Bachelor's degree in Human Services and is registered to work with people in Drug and Alcohol recovery. As a Director with Rebound CDC, a prisoner reentry program, Samantha provides the tools, resources, and sense of community for men and women in her community.

# FOLLOW THE LAW

## Protecting Immigrant Families and Making the Community Safer



In the last year, undocumented communities have come under attack because of increasingly vicious federal immigration laws. ***These policies not only allow for deportation because of minor allegations like possession of drugs, but they also makes communities less safe as undocumented victims fear going to court or speaking to law enforcement.*** It is therefore critical that prosecutors adopt policies that protect some of our nation's most vulnerable residents.

### THE LAW

In *Padilla v. Kentucky*, 559 U.S. 356 (2010), the United States Supreme Court held that the Sixth Amendment requires defense counsel to provide affirmative and competent advice to noncitizen defendants regarding the potential immigration consequences of their criminal cases. Under California law, Cal. Penal Code § 1016.2-3, prosecutors are required to consider adverse immigration consequences.



### DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, & POLICYMAKERS CAN:



- Use their discretion when deciding when to dismiss a case that does not further the interest of justice and when to offer informal and formal diversionary programs, especially in cases where the collateral consequences outweigh the alleged offense.
- Recognize that the immigration consequences that follow arrests and convictions results in disproportionate, often devastating consequences for non-citizens accused of crimes, and that this undermines the DA's commitment to just outcomes.
- Make specialized training available to their deputies to increase their awareness of the immigration consequences of various criminal charges and dispositions.
- Work with the corresponding Public Defender immigration specialists where available and/or the Immigrant Legal Resource Center to develop and implement best policies and practices relating to the consideration and avoidance of adverse immigration consequences.