

## City Council-Keep California Safe Initiative

This City Council voted to place Public Safety as the number one priority of this city and this body. However, in addition to other factors, the combination of AB109, and Propositions 47/57 have had a devastating effect on the crime rates in Chico and the rest of the state.

2018 has been called the year of accountability, and our Mayor recently outlined some major initiatives underway this year, which he named ACT (Accountability, Compassion, Together). A big part of this approach is the commencement of a Chico Community Court, where petty criminal offenses can be heard and dealt with in a way that balances accountability with compassion.

Our first choice is always to encourage voluntary treatment and services for those in need, or those who have become incapacitated by substance abuse and/or mental illness. We want to continually improve our ability to welcome and treat with compassion those who are willing to walk through door #1 and into needed services.

However, the citizens of Chico have an absolute right to public safety and a quality of life based on our high community standards for a **Beautiful, Clean and Safe** community. Some among us are unwilling to conform to basic rules of mutual respect and individual responsibility, and choose to utilize crime to further their selfish ambitions. For those, regardless of condition or status, we must have a viable and credible door #2: Law enforcement Contact, effective Enforcement, and meaningful consequences that establishes accountability for one's conduct.

Like many, we support treatment over jail, but also understand that a failure to act meaningfully to protect the persons and property of our citizenry, is unacceptable.

While there is much other work to do, it is imperative that we begin to reverse some of the harmful consequences of these state-level reforms. The people of California voted for these reforms, have suffered unbearable increases in crime, and now they can also act to undo some of this damage to our judicial system.

It is time for the City Council to endorse, and work with us to ensure that the Keep California Safe Act of 2018 not only qualifies for the November ballot, but passes by an overwhelming majority of voters.