

RESOLUTION NO. 8488

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE, CALIFORNIA, IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 36, THE HOMELESSNESS, DRUG ADDICTION, AND THEFT REDUCTION ACT

WHEREAS, while Prop 47 achieved notable success in making California's criminal justice system more equitable, Prop 47 has also led to unintended consequences over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, these unintended consequences of Prop 47 include repeat and often organized retail theft, stores closing, and difficulty convincing people to seek drug and mental health treatment; and

WHEREAS, Prop 47 can only be changed, and these unintended consequences corrected, by the voters at the ballot box; and

WHEREAS, Prop 36, the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act, is a bi-partisan measure that provides common sense and targeted reforms to Prop 47 that legislative proposals alone are unable to deliver; and

WHEREAS, rampant retail theft is harming businesses and residents in California and those who commit these crimes often suffer no real consequences even if caught; and

WHEREAS, this measure will hold repeat offenders accountable by elevating certain conduct, previously treated as misdemeanors, to felonies; and

WHEREAS, the fentanyl crisis has reached alarming levels, and is now responsible for 20 percent of youth deaths in California; and

WHEREAS, Prop 36 will define fentanyl as a hard drug, hold individuals convicted of trafficking fentanyl accountable, and grant judges greater discretion in sentencing drug traffickers; and

WHEREAS, breaking the cycle of repeat offenders means addressing the many root causes of retail theft; and

WHEREAS, Prop 36 provides critical mental health, drug treatment services, and job training within our justice system for people who are homeless and suffering from mental illness or struggling with substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, Prop 36 represents meaningful reforms to our justice system to ensure our communities are safe without sacrificing the positive changes enacted by Prop 47.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Hawthorne does hereby find, determine and order as follows:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Hawthorne, California, hereby incorporates by reference all the recitals herein and finds that they are true and correct.

Section 2. The Council of the City of Hawthorne, California formally expresses support for Prop 36, the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act and the benefit that it provides for community safety.

Section 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 24th day of September 2024.

ALEX VARGAS, Mayor
City of Hawthorne, California

ATTEST:

DAYNA WILLIAMS-HUNTER, City Clerk
City of Hawthorne, California

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ROBERT M. KIM, City Attorney
City of Hawthorne, California