

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,

The front page news in Wednesday's Times/Standard paper was most disturbing to me and, I hope, a great many more citizens. The September Twenty Sixth tragic murder, and hit and run, a senseless act, left two dead and two seriously injured. A "person of interest" is now behind bars while the investigation continues. According to the newspaper, this "person of interest" failed to show up for a September Seventh court date after entering into a plea deal to serve six years in prison for assault with a deadly weapon after his arrest for robbery. He was set free last August on what is called a "Cruz Waiver", remaining a threat to society, which was proven through his deed of September Twenty Sixth. The D.A.s office states that "This is fairly common to release a defendant with something over his head to try to encourage good behavior, usually with probation cases". This guy also has a previous felony plus a juvenile criminal record. People who have committed nonviolent crimes have been treated worse. Another article addresses the shift in crime due to the States public safety realignment plan, a fancy way to describe Governor Jerry Brown's idea of releasing more criminals into the community to save the state prison system money. Accepting fewer prisoners into the State system allows them to languish in county jails thus pushing the lesser offenders out into the public with little or no punishment for their crimes. Eureka police Chief Murl Harpham states "There is just no deterrent not to commit crimes". Humboldt County Chief Probation officer Bill Damiano states "We definitely have a higher concentration of criminals in our community now". Two other articles that day refer to the "Sit-lie" panhandling ordinances approved by the city of Eureka and the Humboldt County Supervisors' approval of the Urgency Ordinance revisions, both meant to discourage aggressive panhandling and illegal camping. Now, just what good will these ordinances do if the offenders will not face punishment due to the jail being full of people convicted of more serious offenses? How are law enforcement officers supposed to do their job when their efforts are rewarded with criminals released, with little or no punishment, so they may continue to commit crimes possibly of a more serious nature? Another article reports that there were five shooting deaths in Oakland within an eighteen hour span. These maneuvers by Governor Jerry Brown and his gang may save the prison system money but look at what is happening to the crime victims. The deceased have paid the ultimate price. Their survivors are innocent children and other family members whose lives have been altered forever. Other victims have lost mentally, physically and monetarily. Where's the savings? Who is to blame? It is you, the voter of the State of California for electing non thinking fools into high office. Things are getting worse while the general public does nothing.

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