

RESOLUTION NO. 35

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORTUNA SUPPORTING CALIFORNIA'S PROPOSED PROPOSITION 36 WHICH IF PASSED, WOULD INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR REPEAT SHOPLIFTERS AND ALLOW FOR MORE STRINGENT CONSEQUENCES FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN DRUG CRIMES.

WHEREAS, the City of Fortuna, California (“City”) is a municipal corporation, duly organized under the constitution and laws of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 47, passed in 2014, reduced many felony theft and drug-related offenses to misdemeanors, which has significantly hampered law enforcement’s ability to address crime and has led to a noticeable increase in serial theft, organized retail crime, and drug abuse across the state; and

WHEREAS, since the passage of Proposition 47, communities such as Fortuna have witnessed a troubling rise in repeat offenders who take advantage of the lenient penalties for theft and drug possession, undermining public safety and confidence in the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 36, titled *Allows Felony Charges and Increases Sentences for Certain Drug and Theft Crimes*, is a necessary and responsible reform to California’s criminal justice laws, as it restores accountability by enhancing penalties for habitual offenders, particularly those engaging in organized crime, serial theft, and drug trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the proposition increases the penalty for repeat shoplifters and allows for more stringent consequences for those involved in drug crimes, ensuring that law enforcement has the necessary tools to keep communities safe and protect businesses from ongoing theft and disruption; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 36 also seeks to deter drug trafficking by imposing longer prison sentences for traffickers and introducing treatment-mandated felony charges for drug possession to encourage recovery while holding offenders accountable for their actions; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 36 includes measures to safeguard communities from dangerous narcotics such as methamphetamines, fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine by allowing for felony charges if individuals fail to complete mandated treatment programs and by providing stricter warnings to drug suppliers about potential murder charges if they sell drugs that result in a fatality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Fortuna affirms its support for Proposition 36 and recognizes it as a vital step toward enhancing public safety, protecting local businesses, and addressing the loopholes created by Proposition 47 that have led to a surge in theft and drug-related offenses.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Fortuna does hereby resolve as follows:

1. The City of Fortuna firmly supports Proposition 36 and considers the proposed legislation responsible, productive, and necessary.

2. The Fortuna City Council encourages local governments, law enforcement agencies, and communities throughout California to stand united in support of Proposition 36 as a measure to restore balance, accountability, and deterrence to our criminal justice system and to uphold the safety and values of our city.

PASSED and ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fortuna, California, on this 21st day of October, 2024 by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Mayor, Tami Trent

ATTEST:

Siana L. Emmons, City Clerk