

Southern California Summit on Policing, Parole and Prisoner Reentry

*“Enhancing our Knowledge and
Building Partnerships for Safer Communities”*

Location: University of Redlands, Orton Center
1200 E. Colton Ave.
Redlands, Ca.

Date & Time: Monday, May 14, 2007, 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Cost: Free. Lunch provided.

Sponsored by: Redlands Police Department
California Correctional Peace Officer Association
San Bernardino County Police Chiefs and Sheriff
Association
San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office

Who should attend? Police Chiefs, Sheriffs and their command staffs, city managers and mayors

Registration & Information: Chief Jim Bueermann, Redlands Police Department
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Every year, more than 600,000 individuals are released from prison and find their way back into the American communities from which they were incarcerated. They frequently “return home” without any substantive support system or preventative interaction with the police. This fosters higher crime and recidivism rates, more crime victims and an increased cost to the criminal justice system.

In California, there are more than 173,000 prisoners housed in 33 prisons constructed for 100,000 prisoners. There are approximately 110,000 parolees under the supervision of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). Governor Schwarzenegger has been working diligently to craft some form of effective resolution to this dilemma. The complexities of the issue, its political dynamics and the logistical challenges involved in his massive reformation effort make this challenge daunting to say the least.

In June, CDCR will go before a federal judge with the authority to place California's prison system in receivership and order the release of tens of thousands of prisoners. If he orders this they will be returning to our communities. Are we ready? Do we fully understand the implications for the safety of the communities we serve?

The International Association of Police Chiefs (IACP), the US DOJ Office of Community Oriented Policing (COPS) and a host of informed police chiefs, academicians, subject matter experts and community leaders advocate for increased involvement by law enforcement in community corrections and prisoner reentry initiatives. But do we, the police, really understand the complexities of parole and reentry issues? Do we understand how parole "really" works? Most law enforcement leaders have no formal training in these areas and view an appropriate role for their agencies as simply investigation and arrest subsequent to a parolee's re-offense.

The intention of this summit is to build on the recent California summit on high-risk sex offenders and sexually violent predators held in Sacramento. Specifically, this summit intends to provide Southern California law enforcement leaders with an overview of parole and prisoner reentry issues and suggest specific roles for the police to play in this increasingly important area of community safety.

UC Irvine Professor Joan Petersilia, (one of the country's leading experts on corrections and prisoner reentry), and a host of subject matter experts will present valuable information on a wide breadth of topics that police leaders need, now, to lead their agencies in dealing with this issue. Topics will include "Parole 101," the future of California corrections, Police and Corrections Teams (PACT's), global positioning systems, parolees and crime analysis, dealing with high risk sex offenders, local implications of Jessica's Law, prisoner reentry facilities (NIMBY!) and legislative efforts to control parolee group homes and the role of the police in prisoner reentry.

Is your policing agency ready for the ramifications of the reformation efforts the State has underway? Do you need to know more about parole and how CDCR operates? Is your community interested in controlling its "public safety destiny" relative to returning prisoners? Is your agency ready to form a more meaningful relationship with CDCR? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions then you will not want to miss the opportunity this summit presents all of us to make our communities safer. Please join us on May 14!