

1 [Supporting California Proposition 47 - The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Initiative]

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3 **Resolution supporting California Proposition 47 to reduce the penalties for certain non-**
4 **serious and non-violent property and drug crimes, save the State money, and invest in**
5 **crime prevention programs.**

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7 WHEREAS, Emerging best practices in criminal justice focus law enforcement
8 resources on serious and violent crime and utilize community corrections for petty theft and
9 non-violent offenses; and

10 WHEREAS, Research into best practices in criminal justice science show that
11 investment into mental health treatment, drug treatment and truancy prevention increases
12 public safety and stops the cycle of crime; and

13 WHEREAS, By changing the lowest level non-violent drug possession and petty theft
14 crimes from felonies to simple misdemeanors, Prop 47 will save California counties hundreds
15 of millions of dollars annually, reduce prison crowding, and reduce felony caseloads in courts;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The savings will be invested into mental health and drug treatment (65
18 percent), K-12 school programs for at-risk youth (25 percent) and trauma recovery services
19 for crime victims (10 percent); and

20 WHEREAS, Spending on California prisons has gone up 1,500 percent since 1980,
21 and the prisoner population is 117,500 in a system designed to hold 81,500; and

22 WHEREAS, About 10,000 inmates would be eligible for resentencing; and

23 WHEREAS, Reduced sentences would help convicts overcome barriers to
24 employment, housing and access to assistance programs; and

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1 WHEREAS, Proposition 47, “The Safe Neighborhood and Schools Act,” would keep
2 dangerous criminals locked up by preventing any prisoner with prior sex convictions, or
3 conviction for murder, rape or child molestation from being eligible, and would give judges
4 discretion to prevent petitioners from eligibility; and

5 WHEREAS, One of the leaders in criminal justice reform, San Francisco District
6 Attorney George Gascón, is sponsoring this proposition; and

7 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco should join countless law
8 enforcement leaders, crime victims, teachers, rehabilitations experts, business leaders, civil
9 rights organizations, and faith leaders; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports Proposition 47 on
11 the November 4, 2014, ballot and its efforts to reform and fix our criminal justice system.