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City of Blythe Supports Homelessness, Drug Addiction and Theft Reduction Act

Blythe, CA - During its recent meeting on April 23, the Blythe City Council announced its support for the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act slated for the November 2024 General Election ballot. This decision underscores the City's commitment to addressing significant social challenges impacting our community and the broader California landscape.

The Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act, known as Initiative 23-0017A1, aims to amend parts of Proposition 47, by enhancing accountability measures for repeat offenders and traffickers of serious drugs like fentanyl, while also expanding access to critical mental health and substance abuse treatment services.

"We must prioritize the safety of our communities. This proposed ballot measure does just that, fixing prior legislation that has harmed public safety. I am grateful for the public's support of signing ballots to qualify this essential bill onto the ballot," Riverside DA Hestrin said in a recent [news release](#). "It is time for common sense reforms that holds people accountable for their criminal behavior and ensures justice for our community members."

This bipartisan initiative also prioritizes mental health and drug treatment within the justice system, addressing the cycle of repeat offenses with comprehensive support and rehabilitation programs. These programs include job training, aiming to reintegrate individuals into society as productive members.

The act's provisions respond to the urgent need for modifications to existing legislation, highlighted by the recent rise in retail theft and drug-related fatalities, particularly those linked to fentanyl. The City of Blythe recognizes that without reform, the progression of these issues could lead to increased community degradation and economic downturns.

"We are at a pivotal moment where we must correct the course set by prior legislation," added Interim City Manager Mallory Crecelius. "The Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act provides a balanced approach to ensure our community's safety and supports individuals in need of help rather than by punitive measures alone."

The City of Blythe encourages all residents to inform themselves about the details of this critical ballot measure and participate in the upcoming November election. Detailed information about the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act can be found on the [Californians for Safer Communities website](#).

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