



Press Information

For Immediate Release
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ASC-RI Says California Shows Us Rhode Island's Future

Cranston: Carolyn Medeiros, Founder and Director of the Alliance for Safe Communities, today pointed to the Supreme Court ordered release of 40 Thousand California Inmates as the future of Rhode Island, unless we learn the lesson of the West Coast. "Years of financial mismanagement in Sacramento resulted in the atrocious conditions the Court cited in ordering this massive reduction in prison population." She said. ASC-RI contends that unless fiscal sanity is restored here in the Ocean State we are on the same path. "Without substantial changes," Medeiros continued. "This state will soon be unable to fulfill its obligations, if not to the prison population then to other functions that will result in suffering for all Rhode Islanders."

Associate Justice Samuel Alito was quoted as saying of the California order that the upcoming releases "will lead to a grim roster of victims." Similarly, Justice Antonin Scalia said. "Terrible things will happen as consequence of this outrageous order."

ASC-RI contends that Rhode Island neighborhoods and communities would be unprepared for a similar influx of potential repeat offenders if the same thing happened here. Given the current economic conditions cities and towns across Rhode Island are facing cuts to the very enforcement resources and outreach programs they would need to manage such sudden stress. "And the reason we're teed up for these problems?" Carolyn Medeiros asked. "It's because our state finances have been allowed to deteriorate to the point where staff cuts and reductions in equipment and oversight will lead directly to situations Rhode Island will then be unable to control." Communities are at real risk unless order can be restored to state finances, according to the Alliance.

Please see the back-up documentation to the California story and its Rhode Island connection that is available at the following links: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-court-prisons->

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ASC-RI is a non-profit dedicated to assisting Communities to achieve the promise of a safe environment that is made to them by government.

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