

## **California Police Chiefs Association 2009 Legislative Priorities**

The California Police Chiefs Association is the primary provider of front-line law enforcement services in California. Over 78% of California residents look to city police – and only city police – for their most fundamental public safety protection. It is because we protect the vast bulk of Californians that any statewide public safety initiatives fall disproportionately on our members.

At the top of that list this year is the contemplated release of prisoners from the state prison system. Whether this is done through the order of the three-judge panel, a “direct-discharge” methodology, or some other type of activity under the loose appellation of “parole reform”, the bottom line will remain the same: As police chiefs, we will be faced with the prospect of dealing with more criminals with fewer resources. Inevitably, this is a witch’s brew designed to produce horrifically violent crime in our communities.

Accordingly, our most important legislative agenda this year is assuring that local public safety is not compromised in the face of any release programs. This means that, at a minimum, a search and seizure condition must continue to be attached to each of these newly released felons and local law enforcement must be informed with respect to their location. Further, we will need to be able to hold these felons accountable for any parole violations in order to assure their compliance. We have been in extensive negotiations with the administration and with key Legislators concerning these issues and will not rest until we are satisfied that we have provided protection to the communities we are sworn to serve.

We are also concerned that our resources are insufficient to protect our communities. Although police chiefs protect over 78% of Californians, they receive only 11.5% of the local public safety monies that are distributed through the state budget process. Accordingly, it is imperative the Legislature recognize the critical nature of our mission and strive to assure that we have the resources to protect the overwhelming number of Californians.