

# NEWS

From Supervisor Gary Ovitt  
Fourth District, San Bernardino County



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## **Supervisor Gary Ovitt Introduces “The Safe Neighborhoods Act” Initiative**

At the urging of Supervisor Gary Ovitt, the Board of Supervisors today endorsed the Safe Neighborhoods Act, a statewide anti-crime initiative authored by Supervisor Ovitt, State Senator George Runner and 3-Strikes author Mike Reynolds.

“The initiative is a comprehensive criminal penalty and public safety funding effort that targets street gangs, felons with guns, and drug dealers with focused penalties, and provides sustainable funding to our local police, sheriffs, and prosecutors. It also increases public accountability for gang intervention and prevention programs”, Supervisor Ovitt said today.

“The initiative is designed to increase public safety by providing sustainable law enforcement funding to target criminal street gangs,” Supervisor Ovitt said. Within San Bernardino County alone, it is estimated that there are nearly 300 active gangs with over 16,000 members that are continually recruiting new members.

The initiative strengthens the 10-20-Life law to penalize offenders and their accomplices who use firearms in the commission of certain felonies, adopts a penalty of “Use a gun and lose a car” when a car is used in a crime, a gun is in the car, and the registered owner is involved.

Additionally, the initiative protects children from gang predators by increasing penalties for gang recruitment of juveniles. The initiative will authorize \$250 million in targeted funding for local law enforcement agencies as well as assist with GPS tracking to monitor gang members, sex offenders, and violent offenders. The additional resources will enhance the ability of law enforcement agencies ability to focus on the patterns of criminal activity and on the organized nature of street gangs.

“The Board of Supervisors is committed to guarding and protecting the residents of San Bernardino County”, Supervisor Ovitt said. “Support for the Safe Neighborhoods Act will enable the County to join with state and local elected officials as well law enforcement agencies throughout the state.”

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