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Board Of Supervisors



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Press Release

WHAT: Contra Costa County Reentry Strategic Plan

WHEN: March 22, 10 a.m.

WHERE: Board Chambers, 651 Pine Street, Martinez

INFO: cocoreentry.org; 925-427-8138 or 510-374-3231

Supervisors look at plan for returning inmates

(March 18, 2011) California has been ordered by federal judges to release up to 40,000 inmates to relieve overcrowding and unsafe conditions in state prisons.

In anticipation of that release, Contra Costa County departments, cities and nonprofit agencies have been meeting for over a year to see what resources are available to aid the inmates reintegration into the community to alleviate the 75 percent recidivism rate normally associated with parolees and probationers.

The Board of Supervisors will be getting their first look in their March 22 meeting at the strategic plan developed by the Reentry Initiative and consultant Oakland-based Urban Strategies.

“What we have learned is that there are organizations already doing the work called for by the strategic plan but the effort is uncoordinated, scattered unevenly across the county and there is no overall data base,” said Supervisor Federal Glover, who along with Supervisor John Gioia make up the Public Protection Committee and participated in the planning process.

“It is important that we are prepared to work with these individuals in order to reduce the recidivism rate,” he said “and the upheaval that would cost the community.”

The U.S. Supreme Court is reviewing California’s appeal and will render a decision this spring.

Contra Costa residents make up about 1 percent of the state’s prisoners according to officials from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Under law, the state returns inmates to the community of their last known address.