



County leaders to join Daily Press for Facebook Live forum on crime

By The Daily Press Editorial Board

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The last time the Daily Press held a Facebook Live forum on violent crime, it was the morning after the mass shooting at the Route 91 Festival in Las Vegas, in which 58 people were killed and hundreds were wounded.

Several San Bernardino County employees had attended the festival, a few were hurt and others were unaccounted for, causing First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood, District Attorney Mike Ramos and Sheriff John McMahon to cancel their scheduled participation in the Facebook Live event.

More than two months later, all three gentlemen have been kind enough to clear their schedules and will be participating in Round 2 of our Facebook Live forum on violent crime, which has risen substantially in the High Desert and throughout most of California, this year.

The one-hour forum will be held at 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 15. To view the forum, which also will feature High Desert businessman and Victor Valley College Trustee Joseph W. Brady and Daily Press Editor and Publisher Steve Hunt, visit

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Ramos was the first public official to volunteer to take part in such a forum and he told Hunt that he has relatives in the Victor Valley and knows firsthand that crime is a serious issue that demands solutions.

McMahon has been attacking the issue for months with his deputies, and Lovingood has provided county funding to help both the sheriff and DA tackle the issue head-on. From changing manpower allocations to additional funding for High Desert Guardian gang sweeps, we'll hear from these experts how they think this problem can best be addressed and how they think the public can help.

Lovingood earlier this year floated the idea of a countywide sales tax hike to increase public safety spending. We'll see where he stands on that idea now and whether or not it may show up on the November 2018 ballot.

This forum will focus on the thoughts and ideas these three county leaders have, but isn't intended to be the last word on the subject. Though we likely won't accept questions from the public during this live broadcast, feel free to email Hunt at with questions you have for Lovingood, Ramos or McMahan and we'll see if he can ask a few.

Violent crime has been one of the big stories of 2017 and likely will continue to be. State lawmakers have contributed to the problem, but so too have voters who approved Propositions 47 and 57 in recent years. Both those measures have led to early release of criminals, putting more lawbreakers back on the street, where they have picked up where they left off. If we are to turn the tide in this assault on our communities, voters again are going to have to use their clout — but this time to change laws that have proven to be inconsistent with safe communities.



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