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## CITIZEN MISBEHAVIOR BREEDS VOTER DISCONTENT

*Progressive agendas face rebuke in even the “Bluest” of places*



*For Police Issues by Julius (Jay) Wachtel.* This image from Google maps depicts a modest home in a working-class area of Los Angeles. We’ll have more to say about it later. But let’s begin with a major California city that’s even “Bluer” than L.A. We mean, of course, San Francisco. That’s where ardently progressive Mayor London Breed just lost her bid to continue serving the City by the Bay. While the victor, Daniel Lurie (a heir to the Levi Strauss fortune) is also “Blue”, he prides himself as being a moderate sort. In fact, his avowed goals of “restoring safety, ending homelessness and shutting down open-air drug markets” actually [led the “Reds” to anoint him](#) as their number-one pick.



Across the Bay the story was much the same. Voters in “Blue” Oakland [recalled Mayor Sheng Thao and Alameda County Dist. Atty. Pamela Price](#), two strong liberal voices who had only been in office since 2022. According to a spokesperson for the Mayoral recall, Oakland’s progressives “did the same thing they did in San Francisco. They ignored the crime. They ignored the poverty.”

Ditto, L.A. That’s where voters just handed D.A. George Gascon [an overwhelming thumbs-down](#). A nationally-known progressive, his liberal policies, which forbid charging juveniles as adults, barred the prosecution of a wide range of misdemeanors, and disallowed the use of sentence enhancements, made more than a few assistant D.A.’s livid. In his place the electorate installed Nathan Hochman. A former Federal prosecutor and (surprise!) defense lawyer, his campaign pledge to cast aside Gascon’s permissive agenda drew fervent support from police and, as one might



expect, from the D.A.'s disgruntled subordinates. And ultimately from the public, who handed the self-avowed crime fighter a twenty-percentage point margin.

And that's not all. [By an even greater margin of 40 percent](#) California voters hollowed out a decade-old progressive measure, [Proposition 47](#), that had watered down punishments for theft and drug crimes. Spanking-new [Proposition 36](#) addressed the alleged consequences – a plague of smash-and-grabs that continues to beset retailers – by increasing penalties for group thefts and designating all thefts committed by repeaters as felonies. To combat the fentanyl and hard-drugs scourge that plagues the Golden State, punishments for drug dealing were also substantially stiffened.

Still, even if true, Mr. Hochman's reassurance that [cops' hands won't be "tied" during his shift](#) at best offers an incomplete solution. According to newly-appointed LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell, the failure to prosecute "low-level" offending (read: bad-old George Gascon) made victims less likely to call police. Their reluctance to report crimes, he fears, has become so deeply entrenched that it's actually exaggerated the magnitude of the so-called "crime drop."

Chief McDonnell wants citizens to call the cops even for relatively minor crimes. Problem is, the reluctance to prosecute may have made cops reluctant to act. In any event, what ultimately happens has never been controlled by the first two wheels of



the criminal justice system. Courts with judges and a correctional system with probation and parole agents occupy the *really* definitive end. Even if cops and

assistant D.A.'s do their very best, the consequences of criminal misconduct are for others to decide. As we've frequently pointed out, those "consequences" often seem insufficient, sometimes wildly so. Check out our November 8, 2024 update to "[A Broken System](#)":

Darion C. McMillian, 23, [was recently released from parole](#) after being imprisoned for a 2019 shooting. And on November 4 he was on electronic monitoring for a pending drug case when Chicago police officers approached the double-parked car that he occupied. McMillian opened fire with a pistol converted by a "switch" to full-auto, killing Officer Enrique Martinez and, apparently by accident, the driver of his own vehicle. McMillian fled but was soon arrested. Officer Martinez, himself a young person, had less than three years on the job.



Soon after completing his parole term for the 2019 shooting, a crime for which he served four years in prison, McMillian picked up two arrests for felony drug offenses. Both times he was released with an ankle monitor to await further proceedings. He would



soon use a homemade machinegun to murder [Chicago police officer Enrique Martinez](#). A felon’s compassionate treatment was arguably responsible for a young officer’s violent death. [And there’s been political consequences](#). Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, a progressive figure who’s considered no friend of the police, caught a lot of flack. Here’s what Hizzoner announced a few days before the fallen officer’s funeral:

I heard from the family and am honoring their request and will no longer plan to attend the honors funeral services.

Back to L.A. And to our image of that house. On November 7, 2024 [its 93-year old resident told LAPD officers](#) that she was hearing “knocking sounds” from underneath. Officers discovered that a 27-year old man had taken up residence in the crawl space. After “an hours-long standoff,” the naked trespasser

Arrest date	Charge	Disposition
5/15/24	Violate post-release supv.	10/16/24: 142 days jail, half served, balance waived
2/15/24	Violate post-release supv.	4/8/24: 120 days jail
10/5/23	Trespass, occupy property w/o owner’s consent (misd.)	4/12/24: Dismissed int. of justice
9/1/23	Violate post-release supv.	10/12/23: Supv. revoked/Reinstated
7/5/23	Violate post-release supv.	8/18/23: Supv. revoked/Reinstated
10/18/19	Elder/dep. adult abuse, assault w/deadly wpn, threats, obstruct.	10/16/22: Pled nolo to felony abuse, other chgs. dismiss. <b>Three years prison.</b>
7/31/19	Lying in doorway	10/23/19 Dismissed int. of justice
10/10/16	Loitering, peeking, public intox.	1/23/17 18 mos. diversion
1/22/16	Vandalism, obstruct bus., trespass	6/22/16 Dismissed int. of justice

emerged. His [L.A. Superior Court](#) record is summarized above. As one might expect, his most recent tangle wasn’t his first. Also note that his record includes a felony conviction for crimes including “elder abuse,” which led to a prison term. His most recent offending – that crawl space thingy – is “only” a misdemeanor. So he was released, with a court date in December.

Care to wager on his behavior until then?

As we've repeatedly pointed out (see, for example, "[Catch and Release](#),") even chronic evildoers get breaks. Here, for instance, is our November 4, 2024 update to "[A Broken System](#)":

Nineteen-year old Nhazel Warren had recent arrests for gun possession and fleeing [when officers caught him illegally packing a pistol in July](#). He was released with an ankle monitor. Warren then committed a home invasion. He was arrested and released on bond and, again, with an ankle monitor. He went on to commit several more armed robberies; his most recent arrest was a week ago. Again, he was released on bond. And again, with a monitor. All along, Warren was supposedly being monitored by the Probation Dept. But there's no record that they ever put his "tracking" devices to work.

Warren's most recent release, which followed his reportedly *fifth* armed robbery arrest, was on \$150,000 bail. Again, care to wager on how he'll behave?

Misbehavior by releasees is commonplace. There's a reason why one of our related posts (see below) was entitled "[Cause and Effect](#)." Whether cops and prosecutors will vigorously address "lower level" offenses – and whether repeaters will be strictly dealt with by judges and agencies of supervision – is yet to be seen. Hopefully the measures promised by L.A.'s new D.A. and police chief will take hold, and there will be no need for us to wag "naughty, naughty" again.

Check back!