

10/6/23 A shirtless, middle-aged man with a holstered handgun entered the Wisconsin capitol and asked to see the Governor. Instead, he was arrested for carrying the handgun in a restricted area. Joshua Pleasnick posted \$800 bail and was released that evening. He returned to the building's exterior an hour later with an assault rifle. While carrying a rifle outside is legal, Pleasnick had a collapsible police baton (considered a weapon) in his backpack. He was arrested for CCW and placed on a mental hold.

8/3/23 Lauding it as a way to keep young persons living in wrought communities away from a life of crime, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker extended a State law that places first-time illegal gun possessors on probation and expunges their record upon its successful completion. New offenders will be able to "graduate" in as little as six months. Unless a judge requires it, they will not have to submit to drug testing, perform community service, or show that they're pursuing an education or employment.

6/23/23 Five young Minneapolis women were killed when a 27-year old ex-con "blasted" through a red light and struck their vehicle. Along with vehicular homicide, Derrick Thompson faces drug and ex-con with a gun charges after police found a loaded pistol and a large quantity of drugs in his vehicle. Thompson's criminal record dates back to a robbery conviction when he was 17. His driving record includes a 2020 California hit-and-run that left a pedestrian with permanent injuries and led to a wild pursuit, the recovery of a large quantity of drugs and cash, and a prison term. But once released, Thompson was nonetheless able to have his Minnesota driver license reinstated.

6/12/23 An alleged gang member who is wanted for an Oakland murder and has "numerous" active warrants for gun violations in two counties reportedly opened fire during a block party in San Francisco's Mission District. Nine persons, ages 19 to 35, were wounded. Javier Campos, who's connected with the notorious Sureno gang, reportedly sped away from the scene in his vehicle. He is being sought by police.

6/6/23 A 31-year old San Jose, Calif. man with a "violent, delusional past" is in custody after an inexplicable series of attacks that left three persons dead and five injured. Kevin Parkourana, who was on felony probation and has a string of convictions and mental-health detentions, stole vehicles, stabbed drivers, and ran over pedestrians and a man on a scooter. Parkourana was most recently arrested in January for a knife attack but was not charged. [Santa Clara Co. court history](#)

6/5/23 In 1982 Texas man Raul Meza was on parole for a robbery and shooting when he pled guilty to the rape/murder of an 8-year old girl. He got 30 years and was released in 1993 after serving one-third of his term. Meza was then "run out" of a string of cities.

He's now back in custody, charged with two murders in the Austin area (he turned himself in and admitted to one). Meza is also being looked at in ten "cold cases". Austin's City Manager complains that "somebody made a bad decision 41 years ago and let this guy for whatever reason manipulate the system and justice was not served."

5/6/23 A new Georgia law creates a statewide commission to investigate and, if justified, remove local D.A.'s for "willful misconduct" or "persistent failure to perform his or her duties." Authored by the majority "Reds", it addresses the concern that "far-left local prosecutors are failing their constituents and making our communities less safe." But the "Blues" contend the measure targets the Atlanta D.A. for investigating Trump's alleged election interference and promise to challenge it in the courts.

When he took office, George Gascon, L.A.'s progressive D.A., forbid prosecutors from seeking sentence enhancements. That allowed Justin Flores, a felon with multiple prior convictions, to be on supervised release instead of prison on the day he shot and killed El Monte police officers Michael Paredes and Joseph Santana. And now their families are suing the D.A. over his policy and the probation department, which allegedly failed to adequately monitor Flores.

5/4/23 In 2017, while imprisoned for rape, Jesse McFadden was charged with using a smuggled cellphone to solicit nude photos from a teen. Even so, he was freed in 2020, three years before his 20-year term would have normally expired. On May 1, 2023, when McFadden's trial on the solicitation charge was set to begin, he shot and killed his wife and five other persons, then committed suicide. (He blamed his accuser: "This is all on you.") His victims' survivors are now demanding to know why, given his looming criminal case, McFadden was granted early release.

4/8/23 George Sydnor Jr., 43, the D.C. man who allegedly murdered a Virginia woman who was visiting the District, had a long criminal record, including an armed robbery last October. But he was allowed to plead to attempt, as no gun was found. Sydnor also had a larceny warrant from a nearby jurisdiction. But the judge released him on probation on condition that he take care of that charge. D.C. has had 59 murders, 31% more than last year. According to the *Post* editorial board, it's "failing victims."

3/10/23 Jonathan Mangana, a 32-year old Los Angeles-area resident, was convicted of robbery in 2020. He was briefly imprisoned, then paroled. Last October he was arrested for battery on a cop and having a gun. He was released on bond, but failed to show up for arraignment. That's why LAPD was looking for him yesterday. Mangana opened fire. He wounded three officers, none critically. Mangana was shot dead.

3/3/23 Chicago police officer Andres Vasquez-Lasso was shot and killed yesterday after exchanging gunfire with an armed 18-year old whom a 9-1-1 caller said had been chasing a woman down the street. His attacker, who was wounded, was arrested for aggravated battery with a firearm last year after he and two companions ran off from a stolen car. But he was allowed to plea to misdemeanor obstruction / resisting, and that charge was dismissed after he completed community service.

2/24/23 St. Louis prosecutors are accused of ignoring "dozens" of pre-existing bond violations by Daniel Riley, a robbery defendant, who was driving without a license when he ran a red light, causing a collision that led a teen pedestrian to be struck and lose both her legs. But prosecutors said they verbally asked a judge to revoke the man's bond three times without getting a response. Riley's violations included letting his GPS monitor battery die and violating the terms of his house arrest.

2/3/23 Last Tuesday a 23-year old ex-con shot and killed a 24-year old police officer in the small, peaceful community of Selma, California. Officer Gonzalo Carrasco Jr., who had two years on the job, encountered Nathaniel Dixon, 23, on a suspicious person call. Dixon quickly pulled a gun and shot the officer dead. Dixon had served a brief prison term for robbery. Once out he was repeatedly arrested on gun and drug charges. [But thanks to a considerate plea deal](#) and AB 109, he was released on probation.

2/2/23 In October 2021 Benjamin Obadiah Foster was released from custody on the day he arrived at an Oregon prison to serve a sentence for savagely beating a woman friend. Although he had another beating case pending, a judge had given him a brief term and credited his time waiting for trial. Earlier this year Foster fled after beating another woman nearly to death. After an intense search he was found dead by suicide. In the interim he managed to kill two other persons who lived nearby.

1/25/23 More lethal gunplay rocked the nation. [Jarid Haddock, a 21-year old Yakima man](#), used a pistol to "randomly" shoot and kill three strangers in and near a convenience store on Tuesday. He later committed suicide. Haddock was once arrested for stealing a car. After some difficulties with drug use, he completed a diversion program and charges were dismissed. And in Oakland, [gunfire erupted during the Monday evening filming of a music video](#) at a gas station. A hail of nineteen bullets left one person dead and four wounded. Gang rivalries are blamed, and so far no one has been arrested.

12/30/22 A multi-convicted felon with a lengthy arrest record shot and killed Riverside County Deputy Isaiah Cordero during a traffic stop. William Shea McKay, 44,

was most recently convicted in November 2021 on charges including false imprisonment and evading police. But despite Cordero's past, a judge repeatedly postponed his sentencing and released him on bail. McKay was later spotted, and after a chase a police armored vehicle rammed his pickup truck and officers shot him dead (click [here](#) for *L.A. Times* update).

[12/1/22](#) Justin Flores, a multi-convicted felon, was on probation when he gunned down El Monte, Calif. police officers Michael Paredes and Joseph Santana on June 14 as they responded to a domestic violence call. He would have been in prison had a prohibition on filing sentence enhancements for prior offenses, which was issued by progressively-minded D.A. George Gascon, not been in effect when Flores was last convicted. Cpl. Paredes' family has now filed a multi-million dollar claim against the D.A. for that move, and against the probation department for its lax supervision of Flores. (See 6/16, 17, 30 updates)

[11/12/22](#) In 2003 three knife-armed intruders burst into the residence of a Maryland family and badly wounded the husband. Mistaking the car mechanic as the owner of a gas station, they rifled through the home looking for money, using socks they found to avoid leaving fingerprints. Seventeen years later a detective matched the DNA from inside one of the socks against the DNA database profile of Stacy Howard Moore, a local man who served five years for a similar 1994 robbery but had supposedly gone straight. Moore recently pled guilty and was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment.

[11/11/21](#) California parolee Johnny Anchondo, 32 has amassed a series of convictions for "carjacking, reckless evading and joyriding." And on November 9, when Fullerton police tried to stop him for traffic violations, he took off. During the next hour and one-half he repeatedly smashed into his pursuers and stole at least three vehicles. His last ride was a pickup truck, which he got by breaking into an occupied residence and taking the keys. Anchondo was finally arrested after he crashed that vehicle at a gas station and was rammed by a police van. [Complete video](#)

[10/27/22](#) Targeted for recall by anti-crime groups, [Fairfax County, Va. D.A. Steve Descano](#) uses data to show that he sought detention of violent offenders more often than courts allowed. His office policy, though, is to avoid prosecuting misdemeanors and to never seek cash bail, as it disadvantages the poor. Meanwhile his progressive counterpart in Philadelphia, [D.A. Larry Krasner](#), faces impeachment for slacking off on prosecuting illegal gun possessors, of whom many have serious criminal histories.

[10/26/22](#) Illinois Governor J. B. Pritzker commuted Gerald Reed's sentence last year because his conviction for a 1990 murder stemmed from work by detectives supervised

by disgraced former Chicago P.D. Commander Jon Burge. But promptly on release, Reed reportedly embarked on a multi-State “crime spree.” So now he’s back in jail, but for other things. Meanwhile the saga of his original case remains. Could he be retried for the murder? And if he’s convicted, could he do more time?

10/8/22 Jesus Salgado, who is under arrest for kidnapping and murdering four members of a Merced, Calif. family, had been fired from their trucking firm months earlier and had reportedly taken to prowling the business. “He would walk up and down the street for quite a ways in front of that business and beyond, yelling at people.” [His brother, Alberto Salgado, has also been arrested](#). He’s charged with conspiracy and destroying evidence.

10/7/22 One day after Jesus Manuel Salgado was hospitalized in a suicide attempt, a Merced, Calif. farmworker found the decomposing bodies of three adults and an 8-month old. Surveillance video depicts Salgado abducting the victims at gunpoint from a local trucking business. Now under arrest for their murder, [Salgado was convicted of armed robbery and home invasion in 2006](#) and was paroled in 2015.

9/13/22 On Sept. 2 Memphis resident Eliza Fletcher, 34, disappeared during a Friday morning jog. Video depicted a man forcing her into a truck, where a struggle apparently ensued. Cleotha Abston, 38, was arrested the next day. His DNA was matched to the victim’s sandals, which were located near the crime scene. Fletcher’s body was found two days later in a vacant apartment. Abston’s criminal record dates back to the mid-90’s. He was released in 2020 after serving two decades for armed kidnapping.

9/9/22 Memphis resident Ezekiel Kelly shot and wounded two persons in February 2020. Then 17, he was charged with attempted murder, but neither victim cooperated. Last April he pled guilty to aggravated assault and drew three years. Kelly was paroled in March 2022 after serving eleven months (a bid to be let out even earlier was turned down for “anger management” issues.) Two days ago the 19-year old [live-streamed himself driving around the city](#), randomly shooting at people. He killed four and wounded three before being arrested.

9/8/22 Violent recidivists aren’t just a problem in the U.S. Myles Sanderson, 32, whose knife-armed rampage in an indigenous Canadian reserve killed ten and wounded eighteen, was paroled in February from a term for assault and robbery. His 59 past convictions include the stabbing, seven years ago, of one of his new victims. Sanderson’s parole was revoked in May. He remained at large, and authorities say they will investigate the decision to free him. Sanderson apparently committed suicide yesterday as police closed in. His brother Damien’s body was found two days earlier.

8/12/22 Carlos Delcid, 20, and a 17-year old companion were arrested for the August 8 robbery-murder of rookie Monterey Park, Calif. police officer Gabriel Solorio. Officer Solorio, who was off-duty, was shot five times as he tried to flee. Delcid was on felony probation after recently pleading no contest to burglary and domestic violence (charges of assault with a deadly weapon, false imprisonment and witness intimidation were dismissed.) He also had a prior record.

8/4/22 Elwood, Ind. police officer Noah Shahnava, 24 was shot and killed when a motorist he stopped opened fire with a rifle. His murderer, Carl Boards II, a Marion barber, was released from parole last year. In 2006 he drew 25 years for an incident in which he shot at officers with a pistol and an AK-47. He was sentenced as a habitual offender but only served thirteen years. According to a citizen, he recently recorded a song “making statements that if he was ever caught by police that he would kill them.”

7/6/22 Three years ago a Maryland judge allowed Austin Jacob Allen Davidson, 20, to avoid jail time after a conviction for armed robbery. Placed under ostensibly strict supervision, the man kept offending. On July 3 he opened fire on Wicomico County (MD) sheriff's deputy Glenn Hilliard as the officer tried to arrest him on multiple felony warrants. Deputy Hilliard, 42, was mortally wounded. Davidson was arrested and faces murder charges. Baltimore's police union is bitterly criticizing the supposedly permissive policies of the local prosecutor, which “have now gotten a Deputy Sheriff killed.”

6/30/22 Justin Flores, a 35-year old Southern California man, had a long criminal record. But thanks to the D.A.'s intercession, his conviction last year for felon with a gun resulted in probation. And even as Flores continued misbehaving - a warrant was recently issued for domestic violence - probation officers failed to follow up in person. So they're also catching blame for the violent deaths of two El Monte police officers earlier this month, shot dead by Flores when they responded to reports of an assault at a motel. According to the L.A. Times, probation officers visited Flores *once* in sixteen months.

6/17/22 According to a deputy L.A. county prosecutor, Justin Flores, who murdered two El Monte police officers on June 14, had a prior felony conviction that should have counted as a “strike” when he was arrested for drug and gun offenses in 2020. But new, progressive D.A. George Gascon forbid using enhancements. In 2021 Flores pled no contest, and the lack of a “strike” enabled him to get probation instead of prison time. Flores was under probation supervision when he gunned down the officers. Judges later ruled that State sentencing laws overruled Gascon's lenient policy, and he withdrew it.

6/16/22 Justin Flores, the 35-year old man who shot and killed two El Monte (CA) police officers responding to a reported stabbing in a motel room, had multiple felony convictions dating back to 2011 and was barred from having guns. Indeed, he was on felony probation for a 2021 conviction for illegally possessing a firearm. His supervising officer had just requested that the probation be revoked because Flores assaulted his girlfriend, but instead of an arrest a hearing was scheduled for the near future.

6/10/22 As she campaigns for a second term , Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot objects to the release of persons, whether on bail or electronic monitoring, who are pending trial for violent crimes. “Of course they’re entitled to their day in court. But residents in our community are also entitled to safety from dangerous people...” But the ACLU strongly objects. “Bail reform returns people to their homes and jobs, allowing individuals and families to remain afloat.” So does the public defender, who calls Chicago “the false confession capital of the nation”.

5/24/22 On May 22, six weeks after a mentally troubled man opened fire in a Brooklyn subway car, wounding ten, another rider inexplicably walked up to a seated passenger and shot him dead. The shooter has been tentatively identified as Andrew Abdullah, 25. A parolee with an extensive record, including guns and violence, he was arrested a month ago on a stolen car charge and released “under supervision.” A camera captured him giving the gun to a homeless person. It’s been recovered. [Update](#): Abdullah soon surrendered to police.

5/12/22 In 2012, after confessing that he murdered two elderly sisters two years earlier, South Carolina man Joseph Jermaine Brand was sent to a mental institution so that he could regain the capacity to stand trial. He was apparently released in 2016, without notice to anyone. After a decade of hearing nothing, family members of the victims recently learned, through friends, that Brand was back home. Authorities say they’re keeping an eye out but can do nothing until a grand jury acts.

4/25/22 In the 1990’s rehabilitation became the watchword for juvenile justice in Minnesota. In many areas, including Minneapolis, detention “became a last resort.” Young miscreants were offered counseling and job training, and it was assumed they would eagerly partake. But repeat offending took hold, and juvenile crime got worse than ever. Although victims and anguished parents have begged for a far sterner approach, the permissive laws still stand, and chronic offenders continue to be released.

4/18/22 In 2017 Garden Grove (Calif.) resident Ike Nicholas Souzer was thirteen and on home detection when he stabbed his mother to death. Prosecutors charged the “autistic” and “volatile” youth with murder, but in 2019 he was convicted of manslaughter as a juvenile. A few days ago he was released early to home monitoring.

His grandmother warned the D.A. that “with that ankle bracelet, he’s not going to make it through the day.” Sure enough, the “extremely dangerous and violent” youth, who once escaped while awaiting trial, promptly cut it off and fled. [He was arrested one day later.](#)

[4/13/22](#) LAPD attributes a sharp increase in “follow-off” robberies to teams of South-L.A. gang members who assail persons they observe leaving luxury stores and steal jewelry and other valuables for resale to entrepreneurs. There were 165 such robberies in 2021 and 56 so far this year. A special task force has served nearly 300 search warrants and made dozens of arrests for robbery, gun possession and attempted murder. But officers are frustrated that arrestees are quickly released without bail. It took four arrests - most recently, for seven robberies - before one suspect was finally held without bond.

[4/8/22](#) Brothers Dandrae Martin, 26 and Smiley Martin, 27 were arrested after an April 3 shootout between rival gang members in a crowded Sacramento entertainment district that killed six and wounded twelve, including innocent bystanders. Both were wounded, and Smiley remains hospitalized. Both are felons and face ex-con with gun charges. Smiley also faces a machinegun charge, as his gun was converted to fire full auto. Against prosecutor’s wishes - Smiley was a long-time gunslinger and considered very dangerous - he recently gained early release from a ten-year prison term. According to an *AP* investigation, his lenient treatment was enabled by California Prop. 57, which redefined crimes considered most dangerous and vastly expanded opportunities for good credits and early release.

[3/11/22](#) Harvey Marcelin transitioned from male to female. What didn’t change was the Brooklyn resident’s propensity to kill. Now 83, Marcelin was convicted in 1963 for murdering their girlfriend. Marcelin was paroled in 1984. Within two years Marcelin killed another girlfriend and returned to prison. This time Marcelin served thirty-three years. In 2019, at the ripe old age of eighty, Marcelin was again paroled. Last week police recovered a severed head from Marcelin’s apartment. Its accompanying body was found in a shopping cart a few days ago. And yes, Marcelin’s back in the slammer. [NY Times feature](#)

[2/19/22](#) On February 14 Quintez Brown, 21, stepped into a Louisville office and opened fire on Mayoral candidate Craig Greenberg as he met with his campaign staff. No one was injured but a bullet “grazed” Greenberg’s shirt. Brown, a former activist who suffers from mental problems, was quickly arrested for attempted murder. He was released two days later on \$100,000 bail put up by a group associated with Back Lives Matter. Greenberg says that he was re-traumatized by the man’s release.

[2/11/22](#) On December 8th. 2021 a 16-year old Chicago boy was arrested for armed robbery. He was carrying a loaded Glock. This was his second armed robbery arrest

within months, but he was released and fit with an ankle bracelet. That enabled authorities to retrospectively track his movements a few days ago, when he hijacked a car at gunpoint, then shot a 15-year old boy as he walked to school. And to insure that his victim was dead, shot him nine more times as he lay on the ground.

1/24/22 On January 13 a beloved UCLA graduate student, Brianna Kupfer, 24, was fatally stabbed while working alone in an “upscale” Los Angeles furniture store. Her alleged assailant, Shawn Laval Smith, 31, was soon arrested. Smith, who is apparently homeless, has an extensive criminal record. He was on bail pending trial for felony “firing a flare gun into a moving vehicle with a child inside” in South Carolina in 2019, and was at large after violating probation for felony assault on a Daly City, Calif. police officer in 2021. Why that arrest didn’t lead South Carolina to revoke his bail isn’t known.

9/1/21 In September 2018 a 29-year old Chicago man, Rayon Allen, [struck and killed an elderly pedestrian](#) while recklessly passing another car. He tried to pry the body loose from his tires, then sought to steal a car. Allen eventually pled guilty to reckless homicide and got 30 months probation and drug counseling. On August 29, while still on probation, [he ran over two pedestrians and a bicyclist](#), injuring two critically. Allen was arrested for DUI and leaving the scene. And he was released again.