



FOR ALL INCARCERATED PEOPLE, THEIR FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

Local Non-profit Imitates the LA Times and Disputes Sheriff McDonnell in Video Response Promoting Proposition 47

For Immediate Release: November 13th, 2015

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Los Angeles, CA – Last week The Los Angeles Times released a series of videos where Sheriff Jim McDonnell criticizes Proposition 47, the 2014 ballot measure that reduced 6 low level felonies including drug possession to misdemeanors. The growing public criticism from law enforcement comes at a time when the sheriff’s department is amping up their force and attempting to build two more jails and the state is deciding where Prop 47 funds should go. Local non-profit organization Dignity and Power Now – whose motto reads, “For all incarcerated people, their families, and communities” – has fired back with their own series of look-alike videos that dispute Sheriff McDonnell’s claims.

In the videos Dignity and Power Now Health and Wellness Director Mark-Anthony Johnson tackles the same topics as McDonnell ranging from Prop 47’s infrastructure to law enforcement’s attitude towards the public. He sites specific information sources such as [this recent report out of Stanford](#) that analyzes the first year of Prop 47, highlighting reduced jail and prison overcrowding, the resentencing and release of 13,000 people as of Sept 30 (4,454 of from state prison, the rest from jail), the state savings of \$70 million already and an estimated \$93 million more every year, the county savings of \$203 million annually, and the recidivism rate which is at a mere 5% – far lower than the state’s average. Additionally he references [KPCC’s latest investigation into officer involved shootings](#) in Los Angeles County that shows 375 people have been shot by on-duty officers since 2010 and a quarter of them were unarmed.

“The passing and success of Prop 47 is a fundamental step for the people of Los Angeles working to build up resilient families and communities,” says Mark-Anthony Johnson, director of health and wellness at Dignity and Power Now. “We made a video response because the focus should be on the *next steps* to ensure that the people’s needs are met and that law enforcement stops inflicting violence on our communities. To accomplish this the media needs to be as quick to amplify the voices of formerly incarcerated Black and Brown people as they are to amplify the voice of the sheriff.”

For more information, please visit dignityandpowernow.org.