

## **Talking Points**

**Bail reform is not working** — the same people are being arrested over and over again for ***violent*** crimes. They need to be held in jail. There has been a reckless disregard for the law that has led to unprecedented gun violence, robberies, car-jacking, home invasions, burglaries, shoplifting, and disturbances by the mentally ill, such as subway violence and other random assaults on the streets. The City and State are dumping criminals back onto the streets to commit the same crimes over and over again.

**Failure to Prosecute and Downgrading Crimes** — has led to violence, and grand larceny is completely out of control, with smash and grab teams targeting jewelry stores, luxury retail outlets, and even an auction house window was smashed the other evening, resulting in massive theft. Groups of teens are empowered to rampage through places: vandalizing and stealing from stores and restaurants. Every type of business — from large, box retailers to small mom-and-pop shops — is being effected. Businesses cannot afford the level of shoplifting and theft being perpetrated. Drug stores have to keep household items under lock and key, which makes shopping for even something as innocuous as toothpaste difficult. Employees of bodegas and retailers are being put in harm's way and are being routinely assaulted and killed.

**The Diaphragm Compression Bill** —\_recklessly puts law enforcement in harm's way by disallowing Officers to handle someone's mid-section when the Officer is attempting to place someone — even a violent, combative subject — under arrest. It is not possible during a struggle for an Officer to worry about what portion of someone's body might constitute a "diaphragm." Officers now face arrest and prosecution for self defense and for doing their jobs.

**We need to focus on the victims** — Children, the elderly, and victims of all ages are being ignored while our politicians cater to the lawless and criminals. Children are dying. Gun violence is the leading cause of death for young people in the United States, surpassing accidents and cancer.

**Downward spiral** -- The City started its downward spiral in 2012, when our local politicians demanded police back off from quality of life and low level crimes; but now this has made life difficult for citizens of our City – which went from the most pedestrian friendly City to one of the least. We now have an epidemic of reckless, electric bike riding, as well as an epidemic of turnstile jumping. Our transit employees are routinely assaulted. The MTA is hemorrhaging money. Their losses top \$500-million.

**Judges need discretion** — Judges need to have their own discretion put back into their arraignment and sentencing options so they can hold, in prison, those who are

committing violent offenses like stabbings, assaults, attempted rapes, rapes, brandishing firearms, and shootings.

**Discovery Laws** – new Discovery laws have created a backlog of paperwork that both defense attorneys and prosecutors are being buried under. What is particularly egregious is that rape victims must give rapists the ability to return to the scene of their crimes, so if a person has been raped at home, the rapist gets to visit the home, disgracefully traumatizing the victim again.

**Raise the Age** – politicians insisted upon raising the age of culpability for teenagers to be held accountable for their crimes, so instead of a trying a killer as he or she should be tried (as an adult), hardened teens are still being tried as youthful offenders; of course, giving them the chance to continue their downward spiral.

## **WE NEED TO FIX WHAT'S BROKEN**

**Fix Bail Reform – give Judges back their discretion to hold offenders in prison.**

**Lower the age – and hold young adults accountable as adults for the crimes they commit.**

**Mandatory minimum for brandishing or using a firearm – at least 6 months to a year for possession, and more for use.**

**Appoint a Special Firearms Prosecutor, such as we did with Narcotics.**

**Stop re-victimizing rape and sexual assault victims. Stop traumatizing victims over and over by treating the crimes as misdemeanors, instead of the serious, traumatizing events that they are.**

**Prosecute fair-beaters. Many Officers have lost their lives while trying to uphold the laws for this crime; and now their lives seem taken in vain. Felons are routinely caught for their propensity for stealing from Transit, and the ultimate financial costs get passed along on to law abiding citizens. Our transportation system cannot be abandoned. Let's process the fare beaters, recoup our losses, teach our young people not to steal, and find the felons while we're doing it.**

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