



PEGGY LEMONS
Mayor

BRENDA OLMOS
Vice Mayor

ISABEL AGUAYO
Councilmember

ANNETTE C. DELGADILLO
Councilmember

VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS
Councilmember

April 14, 2026

The Honorable James Ramos
Chair, Senate Budget Sub #5
1021 O Street, Suite 7340
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Laura Richardson
Chair, Assembly Budget Sub #6
1021 O Street, Suite 8310
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Proposition 36 Funding – Support Request for \$400 Million in Funding for Recovery Support Services and Substance Use Treatment

Dear Honorable Members,

The City of Paramount writes in strong support of the budget requests signed by Assembly Member Stephanie Nguyen and Senator Catherine Blakespear for additional funding in the amount of \$400 million for probation and other services that are critical in the implementation of Proposition 36.

As you know, California voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 36 (2024), the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act. This important measure made changes to drug and property theft crimes and created a new Treatment-Mandated Felony to address the surge in retail theft and shoplifting.

Funding to fully implement Proposition 36 is a top priority for our city. We are appreciative of the \$115 million that was provided last year for the courts and behavioral health system. However, more funding is needed to actualize the will of the voters.

Specifically, we support the request for \$400 million to address the services needed to help ensure that treatment, when accompanied by supervision, can increase the chances of successful rehabilitation. These investments are necessary to expand service capacity, secure in-custody treatment, and allow for individualized planning and monitoring for those in our communities. Absent real consequences and accountability, local governments cannot maximize treatment success.

As a small, densely populated city with limited local revenue flexibility, Paramount is experiencing the direct impacts of rising retail theft, property crime, and substance-use-related calls for service. Our Sheriff's Department continues to respond to recidivism theft incidents in commercial corridors, catalytic converter thefts, and drug-related activity in multifamily neighborhoods—cases that increasingly involve individuals struggling with addiction who cycle repeatedly through the system without

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access to sustained treatment. Paramount has invested General Fund resources into homelessness outreach, behavioral-health partnerships, and community safety programs, yet the City lacks the in-custody treatment capacity, supervision resources, and recovery-support infrastructure needed to fully implement the accountability framework envisioned by Proposition 36. Additional State funding is essential to ensure that individuals diverted under Prop 36 receive meaningful treatment, structured supervision, and coordinated case management—tools that small cities like Paramount cannot provide without dedicated support. Strengthening these services will improve public safety, reduce repeat offenses, and support long-term recovery for residents who need it most.

For these reasons, the City of Paramount urges the Legislature to include this important funding in the final FY 2026-27 State Budget and continue the progress being made in addressing retail theft, shoplifting and other crime in our communities. Please feel free to contact City Manager John Moreno at (562) 220-2225, if you have any questions. We thank you for your time and consideration.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT



Peggy Lemons
Mayor

Cc: Honorable Congresswoman Nanette Barragan, 44th District
Honorable Assemblymember Jose Luis Solache, 62nd District
Honorable State Senator Lena Gonzalez, 33rd District
Nicholas Cabeza, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities
Jorge Morales, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Consultant, California Contract Cities Association