



# CATCHING UP WITH CARLOS

## **AFTER SUCCESS WITH FENTANYL POLICY, VILLAPUDUA TAKES AIM AT PROP 47**

Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua started the new year with a strong bill proposal to rein in retail theft by targeting Proposition 47, a California law passed by voters in 2014. Prop 47 was intended to provide more proportional punishments for “minor” crimes, but instead fueled an environment of hostility and aggressive, organized theft over the following years.

Villapudua intends to address the rise in retail theft by focusing on four main concerns: 1) enforce against the accumulation of theft over time and repeat offenses, 2) provide discretion for judges to ensure the punishment fits the crime, 3) support rehabilitation efforts for offenders with drug or alcohol addiction to reduce recidivism, and 4) create a more responsive framework for the Legislature to better adapt and revise retail theft law in the future.



# STOCKTON'S MIRACLE MILE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

## AD HOC WORK GROUP TO HOST THIRD PUBLIC MEETING



The [Miracle Mile Improvement Project's](#) Ad Hoc Workgroup is scheduled to host their third public meeting on Wednesday, February 7 at 6 p.m. It will be held at the San Joaquin Council of Governments at 555 E. Weber Avenue in Stockton.

These public meetings provide you with progress reports on the Improvement Project. They also serve as a valuable forum for you to voice your opinion on what the Ad Hoc Workgroup should prioritize with the \$23.1 million that Assemblymember Villapudua championed to revitalize this historic stretch of town.

Although members of the public are encouraged to attend in person, a virtual livestream will be available. You can learn more [here](#).

### Miracle Mile Ad Hoc Workgroup Public Meeting

This meeting will be recorded.

Wednesday, Feb. 7  
6 - 8 p.m.



### San Joaquin Council of Governments

555 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton, CA 95202

<https://bit.ly/stockton-miracle-mile>



Join us on Wednesday, February 7 for a public meeting focused on the revitalization efforts of the Miracle Mile. The meeting will provide progress updates on this essential initiative, and allow opportunities for you to shape the future landscape of this historic area.

Please also mark your calendar for the final public meeting:

**Wednesday, March 6, 2024 | 6 - 8 p.m.**

For any additional questions regarding Stockton's Miracle Mile Improvement Project or the Project's Ad Hoc Workgroup, please email [stocktonmiraclemile@dot.ca.gov](mailto:stocktonmiraclemile@dot.ca.gov).



# RECENT EVENTS

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH



Last week, Assemblymember Villapudua joined his legislative colleagues, survivors, and leaders in the nonprofit, law enforcement, and trucking industries to show unity and support in combatting human trafficking. The bipartisan coalition emphasized the need for greater publicity, training, and response opportunities for Californians.

“While nobody needs to be convinced of how heinous this crime is, we all need to understand how complicated this issue is, and the types of resources victims and survivors need to escape this vicious cycle for good,” Villapudua said. “We must remain committed to working with survivors who can help us craft policy and provide support for those who need it most.”

## LOADS OF HOPE FUNDING APPROVAL



The City of Stockton approved the transfer of a \$400,000 grant for [Loads of Hope](#), a nonprofit that provides free services for local homeless individuals.

Villapudua championed this funding in the [2023 State Budget](#) after seeing the uplifting benefits of their services and the promising impact they will have on our community.

# CARLOS' CONCLUDING COMMENTS

California and San Joaquin County have many important priorities that need our attention in Sacramento this new year. I am excited for the start of another Legislative Session so we can get back to work on the issues that matter most.

My office is taking an intense focus on public safety issues this year to best protect our communities. Our small business owners need our support to address the rise in organized retail theft that is shuttering stores. I am also hoping to build on the momentum of last year's [AB 701](#) to continue to better enforce against fentanyl and protect our vulnerable populations.

If you have any questions about policy our would like to discuss your priorities for San Joaquin County, do not hesitate to [contact my office](#). My door is open, and my staff are available to listen and assist you. You can contact me through my website or by calling one of my offices as well.



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