

Prop. 47: Fewer prisoners, but public safety impact unclear

By Alexei Koseff, Sacramento Bee

Citrus Heights police Officer Wesley Herman recently arrested a parolee carrying stolen jewelry and a deceased man's identification card.

If the property were valued at more than \$950, the case was a felony that would let him take the man into custody. If not, it was a misdemeanor and he'd get a citation.

The first words out of his mouth, Herman said, were, "Am I going to jail?"

It's been nine months since California voters approved a ballot measure reducing charges for some nonviolent drug and property crimes, and Herman says repeat offenders are getting savvy about the new limits of the law.

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