

2

Crime Will Get *Even Worse* in Illinois in 2023 – Thanks to Governor Pritzker

How does a murderer sentenced to up to 199 years in prison manage to get paroled instead of serving life?

That's how it goes with Illinois's "enlightened" criminal justice system. Feel bad for the criminals; forget about the victims. This philosophy seems to have permeated much of the Democratic Party and is now proudly supported by Pritzker.

The victims in this story were two cops who were doing good in one of Chicago's most dangerous high-rise public housing projects: Cabrini-Green on the Near North Side where gentrification has wiped out not just the buildings but also troubling memories.

Sgt. James Severin and Patrol Officer Anthony Rizzato. Remember their names. They were volunteers in a new "walk-and-talk" program designed to strengthen trust between residents and police. Get out of the patrol cars; walk around the neighborhood; get to know everyone; climb the urine-soaked stairs inside the buildings. Sgt. Severin had played softball

with the kids and used his own money to set up an ice cream fund.

One summer evening in 1970, when the two were walking across a field, a sniper in one of the buildings had them in his high-powered rifle's sight. Both were shot in their backs. They were pronounced DOA at Henrotin Hospital. The city was in an uproar; the Rev. Jesse Jackson called Severin a "beautiful man" at the wake.

Two men were arrested and convicted of the murders: George C. Knight, then twenty-three, and Johnnie Veal, eighteen. Each was sentenced to 100 to 199 years, for which they would serve for life. Except . . .

In 2021, Veal, age sixty-eight, was paroled and released by today's "enlightened" Illinois Prisoner Review Board by an 8-4 vote, which pleases today's new Democrats. Those are the ones who think their "progressive" rules are there to correct past "racist" criminal justice errors like, say, lifetime sentences.

If there ever was a truly bipartisan issue over which all in Illinois can unite, it's crime. Everyone is against it and crime victims are not selected by their politics. No punk asks the old lady whether she's a Democrat or Republican before he mugs her. There are no Republican or Democrat wings in our prisons.

Yet, crime and its prevention have turned into one of the hottest partisan fights of our time. And it has

a lot to do with why I'm not a "new" Democrat of today's flavor when it comes to law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

Take J. B. Pritzker. Illinois is literally aflame with crime: gang turf wars and revenge killings; thieving mobs breaking into high-end Michigan Avenue stores, driving businesses to leave or shut down. Police are routinely despised, if not attacked and shot. We now have punitive laws that cripple true law enforcement. "Defund the Police" has been the cry.

So, where is Governor Pritzker? Out running for president somewhere? Instead he should be finding out firsthand how the other 99 percent live.

Democrats like to speak of "root causes," but they always avoid this one: so many of the shootings are the result of men who have no fathers in their lives. That's because the idea of fatherhood and family have been stripped away by the ideology that dominates today's new Democrats. Yet, multiple studies demonstrate that a father present at home is a key to children avoiding the mire of hopelessness and gang violence. Gangs have now replaced fathers in Illinois.

Pritzker's proud contribution is his signing the so-called "Safety, Accountability, Fairness, and Equity-Today Act," (ACT-T). Its provisions are debatable – some commendable, at least one absolutely condemnable. But there wasn't much time for debate. The seven-hundred-page bill was rammed through

on January 13, 2021, literally in the dead of night with very little debate.

Law enforcement officials were not listened to. Pritzker signed it with gusto, proclaiming anyone who opposed it didn't believe in justice or was controlled by fearmongers. Rep. Justin Slaughter, a Chicago Democrat, jumped aboard saying that Republicans who opposed the law had a "bad stench of racism."

Okay, let's get past the name-calling and look at the law's worst and most controversial provision: the abolition of cash bail. We've already heard and seen the horrible, deadly results of such a policy in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Criminals were returned to the street to steal and kill again. So, last August, San Diego and Los Angeles *stopped* "no bail" for many arrests, a message which has not made it to Pritzker's policy of full-speed-out-of-jail for Illinois criminals.

Look for the same to happen in Illinois when ACT-T takes effect in 2023 – conveniently scheduled for *after* Pritzker runs for re-election this year. Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx didn't wait for the law to go into effect before instituting her own version. No more cash bail in Cook County is now the rule. I've always hated the cliché "soft on crime," but it's hard to find another phrase for Foxx's disregard for victim safety.

There are other new-Democrat aspects to this mess. Recently four men opened fire on each other,

one of them a security guard who tried to intervene. The four were injured and charges were expected to be forthcoming.

But no. Foxx's prosecutors refused to file any charges against two of the men. No explanation. Not even aggravated discharge of a weapon.

It's a plague. Remember this number: 74. That's the number of people who in 2021 were awaiting their trials, some for felonies, but who were out of prison and charged with committing *additional* crimes in Chicago. What crimes? Killing or shooting someone. Or trying to kill or shoot someone. The number of victims was more: 111. Should anyone be surprised there was this much bloodshed when people who are charged with violent crimes like second-degree murder, arson, and kidnapping are automatically released without bail from custody while awaiting trial?

The no-cash-bail set-up is so wrong that even some Democrats have stepped forward to oppose it. One is James Glasgow, the Will County state's attorney, who warned that it will virtually handcuff police. "I have 640 people in the Will County Jail," he said. "All their bonds will be extinguished on January 1, and sixty are charged with murder."

Foxx's "go easy" approach struck even closer to home: in her own office. Disgruntled assistant state's attorneys are quitting, including longtime prosecutor James Murphy. In his resignation he said, "I can no

longer work for this administration. I have zero confidence in their leadership. This administration is more concerned with political narratives and agendas than with victims and prosecuting violent crime. That is why I can't stay any longer."

Maybe that's another reason that so many Chicagoans and Illinoisans can't stay any longer in their state.

P.S. Here's a history lesson about gun crime you have probably never heard. It's probably the best way to end the soaring murder rate in Chicago once and for all. It worked before in another major city.

During the 1990s in Richmond, Virginia, the city's murder rate was the third worst in the United States. Local law enforcement was desperate for a solution. They found one: a little-known federal law which said that any felon who committed a crime *with a firearm* had to serve a long mandatory prison sentence in the federal prison system.

The city's officials made an arrangement with the U.S. Attorney for Northern Virginia to take over the prosecution and imprisonment of such qualifying criminals, all at almost no cost to the city. Guess what happened?

Violent crime and murders dropped by close to 30 percent in the first year of enforcement. The program was called "Project Exile." Various organizations in

Virginia, including the National Rifle Association, began to publicize the new program.

Billboards went up on the borders of Virginia that advertised Project Exile with words like, “Do the crime with a gun in Virginia and you’ll do the time.” The Richmond murder rate continued to fall, down to about *half* its former rate. A few other cities, like Buffalo, New York, also started the program.

But what happened next was the usual response of the new Democrats: Eric Holder, President Obama’s attorney general, killed Project Exile.

If Governor Pritzker and the Chicago Democrats want to end the gang bloodshed in Chicago – which has taken so many innocent lives and wounded many more – they only need to demand that President Biden’s Attorney General Merrick Garland bring Project Exile to Chicago. A Chicago mayor who made this happen would probably be elected “Mayor for Life” by grateful Chicagoans in a city safe again – elected even without any of Chicago’s usual, notorious vote fraud.

Do you think that new Democrats in Illinois will ever make that happen in Illinois? Good luck, folks. I encourage you, my readers, who have dipped into this book, to do an internet search on Project Exile.

Illinois needs citizen activists to do what your politicians refuse to do: find a way to stop the killings in our cities.