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In Neighborhoods



BUILDING A HEALTHY SACRAMENTO

# Changing Records, Changing Lives

*Prop. 47 gives people a second chance*

BY KATE GONZALES

Things have been looking up for Martell Koster. After years of temp work, he has landed a full-time job, purchased a home and is getting ready to have a second child.

The 32-year-old credits Proposition 47 — which reduces certain nonviolent offenses from felonies to misdemeanors on a case-by-case basis — with giving him the chance to take steps toward a brighter future.

**“I WANT TO BE A  
PRODUCTIVE MEMBER  
OF SOCIETY.”**

*Martell Koster, Reclassified under Prop. 47*

“For the last five years, I’ve been fighting to get a real job,” Koster says. “I want to be a productive member of society.”

Since California voters passed Prop. 47 in November 2014, thousands of people statewide have had their felony convictions reclassified to misdemeanors, opening up eligibility for benefits like Section 8 housing and reducing barriers to employment.

“I think you should give people a second chance,” Koster says. “A real second chance.”

Koster says his permanent, full-time job will allow him to provide for his family and give back to the community. Always Knocking Inc., a Sacramento nonprofit that provides wraparound services to families, has helped spread the word about the positive community impacts of Prop. 47.

Gregory King, CEO and founder of Always Knocking, says the organization has helped nearly 1,000 Sacramento residents apply for reclassification.

On Nov. 4, Always Knocking hosted a celebration of the one-year anniversary of the passing of Prop. 47. Sponsored by The California Endowment, which supported Prop. 47, the event featured stakeholders like Sacramento County’s Office of the Public Defender, as well as stories from community members who have directly benefited from reclassification.

King praises the law any chance he gets for “changing records, changing lives.” Always Knocking will continue to help community members apply for reclassification during its Sacramento Inner City Tour. The deadline to apply for reclassification is Nov. 4, 2017.

## SACRAMENTO INNER CITY TOUR DATES

**Need help reclassifying  
your records?  
Come to these events:**

### South Sacramento

Saturday, Nov. 21  
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

South Sacramento Christian Center  
7710 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento

### Del Paso Heights

Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016  
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Roberts Family Development Center  
766 Darina Ave., Sacramento

### Rancho Cordova

Saturday, May 21, 2016  
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Unity Church  
9249 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento

### Oak Park

Saturday, June 25, 2016  
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Oak Park Community Center  
3415 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.,  
Sacramento

## BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

In 2010, The California Endowment launched a 10-year, \$1 billion plan to improve the health of 14 challenged communities across the state. Over the 10 years, residents, community-based organizations and public institutions will work together to address the socioeconomic and environmental challenges contributing to the poor health of their communities.

Martell Koster, 32, is one of thousands of Californians whose felony convictions have been reclassified as misdemeanors under Prop. 47.  
Photo by Anne Stokes



ZIP CODE  
**95219**  
Life Expectancy  
**73**



ZIP CODE  
**92657**  
Life Expectancy  
**88**

Your **ZIP code** shouldn’t predict how long you’ll live — but it does. Staying healthy requires much more than doctors and diets. Every day, our surroundings and activities affect how long — and how well — we’ll live.

Health Happens in Neighborhoods. Health Happens in Schools.  
Health Happens with Prevention.

For assistance filling out a Prop. 47 application, contact Chief Assistant Public Defender Karen M. Flynn at (916) 874-5732.

The **HUB**  
Building Healthy Communities  
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PAID WITH A GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT