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Subject: FW: Comment to Proposed CrR 3.2 change
Date: Friday, April 30, 2021 8:06:21 AM

From: Taylor, Karissa [mailto:Karissa.Taylor@kingcounty.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 5:22 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Comment to Proposed CrR 3.2 change

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to respectfully express significant concerns regarding the pending proposed amendment to CrR 3.2 and CrRLJ 3.2.

While I agree that most individuals charged with non-violent offenses should be released on personal recognizance, I am concerned about the lack of safeguards against the release of violent offenders. The proposed rule would assume release for individuals charged with Unlawful Possession of a Firearm in the First or Second Degree. Individuals charged with UPFA 1 by statutory definition have violent criminal history and face prison time. It is alarming that someone charged with a gun charge and prior violent felonies will be presumed released back into the community. Additionally, individuals on community custody have almost always committed a violent offense, or a domestic violence offense, or a sex offense. If that individual picks up a gun, or steals a bunch of cars, while on community custody, that individual is also presumed released.

The proposed amendment to the rule goes too far and fails to include an exception for chronic offenders and offenders who repeatedly fail to appear. There is a legitimate public interest in not automatically releasing these individuals. Washington trial courts must have discretion to determine which of this extreme non-violent repeat offenders must be held on bail and/or with conditions.

Thanks you for your consideration

Karissa Taylor
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