Failures require new thoughts on crime

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Regional Failures require new thought on crime

The United States has the highest rate of incarceration anywhere in the world. Indeed, mankind's most serious crime is that nearly 7 million people are locked up. Many of these people incarcerated are members of minority groups. Furthermore, the current system is out of touch. It is not fair. Police brutality is a serious issue; race certainly is a problem. As New York Police Commissioner William Bratton put it, “We have a problem with race in New York City, and unless we get that and address it, we are not going to make progress.”

The past several years have shown that the war on drugs is a failure. We spend billions of dollars, but we aren’t making progress. The police are not safe either. New York City has the nation’s highest number of police deaths in the line of duty. The system encourages corruption and abuse.

In the past, rehabilitation was the emphasis for certain crimes. Today, “tough on crime” is the new mantra. Too many people are in jail for minor offenses. The number of potential black market workers is incredible. With that job source gone, the potential numbers of low-skilled workers that might work for a minimum wage is currently unavailable. Put simply, we are spending billions and billions for negligible results.

If we are wise, we will not wait for the problem to solve itself. We need to demand solutions. A comprehensive plan must be put forward. An expert panel must be appointed to create a new system.

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