

Beginning January 1, 2020 Bail and Discovery Reform will go into effect and this will be bad for all of New York State and good for career criminals. Our community will be put at risk over and over as judicial authority has been taken away from our judges to set bail on those who are a potential flight risk. This law will allow drug dealers to head back out to the street to continue selling drugs even in our school yards. If the State is so concerned about the opioid epidemic it seems counterproductive to allow drug dealers just walk away without a way to ensure their appearance in court by setting bail. This gets worse, you're sleeping in your home and someone breaks into your home. You're awakened by the intruder and go to investigate and they flee with some of your belongings only to be caught immediately after by law enforcement. That burglar will be processed and released with an appearance ticket only to be put back on the street and find the next home to break into.

This will be an open invitation for career criminals from neighboring states to come to NY to commit crime after crime. They know no bail will be set on them and they are free to leave the state with their appearance ticket in hand and the immediate ability to repeat offend. On top of that it will be the responsibility for the court to contact the arrestee by the preferred means requested by the arrestee so as to remind of their upcoming court appearance.

To make matters worse for those who were victimized by a criminal act such as having your home broken into while you are sleeping. You will have to allow the arrestee and their defense counsel the opportunity to inspect any evidence relating to the crime (discoverable materials) at your home such as the broken window or door they damaged to gain entry. This is required under the new discovery reform. This means you are not supposed to repair the damage that was caused to your home which leaves your home even more vulnerable. Having to provide access to the one who was an intruder in your home is unspeakable and unheard of and should not be allowed.

I Sheriff Robert L. Langley Jr. stand with the Sheriffs of New York State and the New York State Sheriff's Association and urge everyone to contact your representative in the Assembly and Senate along with the Governor and demand that Bail Reform and Discovery Reform be repealed.