



March 12, 2024

The Honorable Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.  
California Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 6320  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1802 – Organized Theft (SUPPORT)**

Dear Assemblymember Jones-Sawyer,

On behalf of the City of Carlsbad, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill (AB) 1802, which would extend the sunset on the crime of organized retail theft and the operation of the CHP property crimes task force until January 1, 2031.

Organized retail theft is a problem that continues to plague cities across California. With the uptick in this type of crime, the crime of “organized retail theft” was created. However, due to the sunset date originally established in Assembly Bill 1065 in 2018, the safety of the general public is now at risk. The extension of this sunset will ensure that this type of crime will continue to be addressed by law enforcement in the most effective way.

The goal of this extension is to continue to ensure that sophisticated crime rings, who were taking advantage of loopholes in state law, will still be targeted and prosecuted differently from individuals committing theft for a variety of other reasons. This will be done through continuing to distinguish organized retail theft from other forms of theft, and through the continued operation of the Organized Retail Theft Task Force. Data shows that this task force has been incredibly effective in busting and stopping these organized crime rings over the past several years; however, organized theft remains pervasive in our communities.

The City of Carlsbad supports state legislation and funding that preserve the safety, security and well-being of our residents, workers, businesses, and visitors. We are pleased to support AB 1802 and thank you for your leadership on this most important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Sharon Gonsalves with Renne Public Policy Group at 916-974-9270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Blackburn".

Keith Blackburn  
Mayor  
City of Carlsbad

CC: Members and Staff of the Assembly Committee on Public Safety  
The Honorable Tasha Boerner, Assembly District 77