



June 10, 2024

The Honorable Jacqui Irwin
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 6220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1779 – Theft: jurisdiction – SUPPORT (As Amended April 25, 2024)

Dear Assemblymember Irwin,

On behalf of the City of Carlsbad, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill (AB) 1779, which would authorize prosecutors to charge related incidents of organized retail theft and other related offenses in one filing in one county superior court, even if some of those offenses occurred in another or multiple other county jurisdictions.

Organized retail theft is a significant and escalating problem for business owners in our community and across the state. It is especially concerning to witness the evolving use of violence and the flagrant criminality of the ongoing trend of smash-and-grab and grab-and-go thefts. These crimes wield not only financial losses, but threaten physical harm to business owners, workers, and customers. They also greatly contribute to the perception of lawlessness in California.

Existing law creates the crime of “organized retail theft” but only authorizes the Attorney General to file cases involving the crime that are multi-jurisdiction. Therefore, a district attorney’s ability to fully prosecute a case involving this type of crime that has been passed on by the attorney general is limited and usually requires the district attorney to remove charges based on conduct in other counties.

The attorney general has utilized existing law to charge organized retail theft rings but has also passed on some cases involving multi-jurisdictions. AB 1779 allows a district attorney to prosecute organized retail theft rings that have operated in their jurisdiction, which will help hold repeat and large offenders accountable.

The City of Carlsbad supports legislation that preserves the safety, security and well-being of our residents, workers, businesses and visitors, and which strengthens local law enforcement. For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1779 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 City Council

City Hall 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive | Carlsbad, CA 92008 | 442-339-2820 t

CC: The Honorable Catherine Blakespear, Senate District 38
Brady Borcharding, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor Gavin Newsom's Office
of Legislative Affairs