



June 24, 2024

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5610
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1794 – Crimes: larceny – Support (As Amended April 11, 2024)

Dear Assemblymember McCarty,

On behalf of the City of Carlsbad, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill (AB) 1794, which would allow for the aggregation of theft crimes across various locations and victims.

Retail crime and theft continues to impact the retail industry at unprecedented levels. Businesses have taken drastic measures to protect their assets and mitigate their losses. Retailers have reduced their operating hours, have reduced or altered their in-store product selection, and have, in some instances, been forced to close stores. These drastic measures not only impact consumers' ability to buy essential items but California's overall economy as well by costing jobs, wages, and much needed tax revenues.

AB 1794 empowers law enforcement to address multiple thefts contributing to business closures. In addition, this bill will streamline the process of reporting shoplifting incidents directly to prosecutors through a statewide program called "CAL Fast Pass." This program will expedite investigations and prompt decision-making on criminal charges, effectively addressing retail crime. The implementation of the CAL Fast Pass program allows retailers of all sizes to more quickly and efficiently address incidents of theft, thereby reducing the financial strain and operational disruptions caused by these crimes.

AB 1794 aims to tackle the unequal weight of retail crime on businesses, especially smaller retailers, and their local communities. Allowing law enforcement to aggregate theft crimes by location and victims gives them more tools to prosecute retail theft crimes against businesses. The reduction in retail crime facilitated by the bill will also have broader economic benefits, including preserving tax revenues that would otherwise be lost due to stolen merchandise and fraudulent activities.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1794 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
Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor Gavin Newsom's Office of Legislative Affairs