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The Honorable Kevin McCarty Chair, Assembly Committee on Public Safety 1020 N. Street, Room 6011 Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Aisha Wahab Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee 1020 N. Street, Room 545 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Retail Theft Aggregation and Multi-Jurisdictional Legislation

Dear Assemblymember McCarty and Senator Wahab,

The City of Brentwood is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1779 (Irwin) Theft: Jurisdiction, and Assembly Bill 1794 (McCarty) Crimes: Larceny, which would propose several methods of ensuring and clarifying the process of multi-jurisdictional prosecution as well as aggregation of multiple theft incidents with several victims.

Retail theft is a continual problem not only in the City of Brentwood and Contra Costa County, but also in all California communities. The offenders know the limits of goods they can steal at the lower punishable amounts. They avoid the higher charge of grand theft by stealing amounts of goods under \$950.00 in several businesses in different locations. Current law provides that multiple thefts can be aggregated to one charge if these incidents can be proven to be "one intention, one general impulse, and one plan". Unfortunately, this law is limited in scope and the City of Brentwood believed it needs strengthening.

Improved aggregation laws for multiple incidents of theft will not be helpful without active prosecution of cases across several jurisdictions. Expanding coordination and the abilities of our District Attorneys to work together to prosecute theft offenses that occur in several citifies and counties will ensure offenders are held accountable for the crimes committed.

While these individual bills are important in order to continue to make progress on retail theft, these bills are only one part of a comprehensive solution that need to include prevention, enforcement, and supervision. Addressing aggregation of multiple theft offenses and cross-county prosecution of offenses are some of the methods that can help solve this growing problem.

For these reasons, the City of Brentwood supports the bills listed above.

Sincerely,

Joel Bryant,

Mayor

City of Brentwood

cc: Honorable Steven M. Glazer, Senator: senator.glazer@senate.ca.gov

Honorable Jim Frazier, Assembly Member: assembly.ca.gov

Honorable Diane Burgis, CCC Supervisor: supervisor:burgis@bos.cccounty.us
Honorable City Council Members, City of Brentwood: citycouncil@brentwoodca.gov

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