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April 25, 2024

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 Enforcement and Increased Penalties Legislation

Dear Assemblymember McCarty and Senator Wahab,

The City of Brentwood is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1960 (Soria) Sentencing Enhancements: Property Loss, Assembly Bill 1990 (Carrillo) Criminal Procedure: Arrests: Shoplifting, Assembly Bill 2438 (Petrie-Norris) Property Crimes: Enhancements, Assembly Bill 2814 (Low) Crimes: Unlawful Entry: Intent to Commit Package Theft, Assembly Bill 3209 (Berman) Crimes: Theft: Retail Theft Restraining Orders, and Senate Bill 1242 (Min) Crimes: Fires.

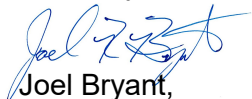
These bills propose several methods of increasing enforcement tools on the front end of our criminal justice system and increasing the penalties on the back end. These methods range from increasing ongoing funding of local and statewide enforcement programs, improving law enforcements' powers and arrest authority, creating new offenses, and adding sentencing enhancements for felonious offenses of retail theft.

Retail theft is a continual problem not only in the City of Brentwood and Contra Costa County, but also in all California communities. Rising Theft is affecting every corner of California, and city officials need additional tools to reduce crime and improve the quality of life and safety in their neighborhoods.

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 enforcement tools and increased penalties are some of the methods that can help solve this growing problem, however additional changes are needed in order to make our communities safer.

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
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