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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 Repeat Offenders Legislation

Dear Assemblymember McCarty and Senator Wahab,

The City of Brentwood is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1787 (Villapudua) Theft: Shoplifting, Assembly Bill 3109 (Muratsuchi) Theft and Senate Bill 923 (Archuleta) Theft.

These bills address repeat offenders of retail theft through increasing incarceration for those with previous theft convictions from anywhere to 1 to 7 years upon subsequent convictions of theft-related offenses. It also would reinstate the penalty theft with a prior, which was removed from existing law under Proposition 47, and would lower the threshold to receive a felony charge from \$950.00 down to the previous threshold of \$450.00

Retail theft is a continual problem not only in the City of Brentwood and Contra Costa County, but also in all California communities. The lack of consequences for repeat offenders and ability to deter offenders has made it difficult for law enforcement and retailers to address theft activity. Without any accountability on behalf of the offenders, retail theft will continue increase. Increased penalties for offenders with prior theft offenses or reinstating theft with a prior would hold the repeat offenders accountable and make it less profitable to commit multiple acts of retail theft.

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 repeat offenders is just one of the issues that can help solve this growing problem and make our communities safer for all.

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: assemblymember.frazier@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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