



CITY OF LA VERNE CITY HALL

3660 "D" Street, La Verne, California 91750-3599
www.cityoflaverne.org

May 1, 2024

Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via the Legislative Position Letter Portal

RE: Support to Senate Bill 982 (SB 982) Crimes: organized theft.

Dear Honorable Senate Appropriations Committee Members:

I write to you on behalf of the City of La Verne, which is grappling with a troubling rise in organized retail theft, including frequent smash-and-grab incidents. These crimes have severely impacted our local businesses and compromised the safety of our community. In light of these challenges, I strongly advocate for Senate Bill 982, which aims to permanently solidify critical legal provisions against organized retail theft.

The removal of the sunset clause in SB 982 is paramount. Making these provisions permanent will empower our law enforcement agencies with the consistent authority required to combat these criminal enterprises effectively. The continuity ensured by this bill is crucial for our ongoing efforts to dismantle these rings and restore security to our commercial areas.

Moreover, the City of La Verne has proactively initiated the Business Assistance for Crime Reduction Program, designed to bolster the security of our business community. However, the success of local initiatives like this is heavily dependent on robust state-level enforcement measures. The passage of SB 982 is critical to these efforts.

Therefore, I urge your strong support for SB 982. Enacting permanent legislative measures against organized retail theft is vital for protecting our businesses and residents. Your support for this bill will significantly aid in keeping our community safe and maintaining La Verne as a vibrant hub for commerce and residential life.

Thank you for considering our position on this critical issue. Your commitment to supporting this legislation is essential for the future welfare of La Verne and its citizens.

Sincerely,

Tim Hepburn
Mayor

C: City Council
Ken Domer, City Manager
Sam Gonzalez, Chief of Police

