



August 12, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 3209 (Berman) Crimes: theft: Retail Theft Restraining Orders.
REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE *(As Amended June 29, 2024)*

Dear Governor Newsom,

The League of California Cities (Cal Cities) respectfully requests **your signature** on AB 3209 (Berman) which would allow a court sentencing a defendant for any violation for shoplifting, theft, or organized retail theft to consider issuing an order restraining the defendant from entering the premises of the retail establishment.

As you may know, retail theft continues to be a problem in nearly all California communities. For example, commercial burglary is at the highest rate since 2008. In fact, according to the PPIC, commercial burglary increased statewide since 2020, especially in larger counties with an increase of 13% among 14 of the 15 largest counties. To address rising theft, city officials need additional tools to reduce crime and improve the safety of their neighborhoods.

Specifically, this bill would enact a new statute for retail theft restraining orders (RTRO). This bill would also allow a prosecuting attorney, city attorney, or attorney representing a retail establishment to file a petition for the issuance of a criminal protective order against a person who has been arrested 2 or more times for these offenses.

AB 3209 would help to address the issue of repeat offenders that have targeted many grocery stores and retailers with little or no consequence for their behavior. By allowing the retailer or a city attorney to petition for a restraining order, this bill will provide an alternative solution to address this behavior.

AB 3209 is part of a package of bills that will make important changes to retail theft. Protecting retail establishments from theft is one of the priorities Cal Cities has identified that need to be addressed before real progress can be made, however all of the proposed changes in the retail theft legislative package are needed in order to comprehensively address this issue.

For these reasons, Cal Cities urges **your signature** on AB 3209 (Berman). If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 658-8252 or jvoorhis@calcities.org.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jolena Voorhis".

Jolena Voorhis
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

cc: The Honorable Marc Berman
Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office