



Public Safety Policy Principles ***Retail Theft***

Adopted March 27, 2024

A spike in retail theft, violent smash-and-grab robberies, and strained social services are creating challenges throughout Los Angeles County beyond the capacity of local governments. There are existing conditions and laws that hinder law enforcement's ability to keep their communities safe. Cities can't solve these problems alone and must work with the Legislature and Governor on responses that include prevention, accountability, supervision and, in the case of retail theft, reasonable adjustments to Proposition 47.

The Los Angeles County Division's Board of Directors, building on the Division's 2024 Strategic Priority to "Support legislation, policies, funding and other resources that would improve public safety and address law enforcement challenges," adopted policy principles related to organized retail theft. These principles will enable the Division to respond to the flood of bills from the Legislature and Governor on organized retail theft and other public safety matters.

Retail Theft Core Areas of Reform

Cal Cities has joined a diverse group of business, labor, law enforcement and local government organizations to ensure that meaningful and comprehensive reform is achieved this year. The coalition has outlined 9 core areas of reform. The descriptions of some of these areas have been amplified to further clarify the intent:

1. Additional penalties targeting repeat offenders, including reinstating Penal Code § 666 as it existed before to allow for alternate felony-misdemeanor prosecution of all offenders who commit a petty theft and have been previously convicted of a petty theft.
2. Improving ability to aggregate theft cases, by providing for alternate felony-misdemeanor prosecution of those who commit misdemeanor level thefts from multiple retailers without requiring that such thefts are "motivated by one intention, one general impulse, and one plan" or have been committed pursuant to a "common scheme or plan."

3. Reinstating penalty enhancements for higher level theft, including reinstating Penal Code § 12022.6 to provide for enhancements for those who steal property of high dollar amounts and providing for enhancements for those who are in possession of stolen property of high dollar amounts.
4. Multi-jurisdictional prosecution.
5. Improving and making permanent organized retail theft laws.
6. Ensuring accountability.
7. Reducing recidivism by ensuring adequate supervision with accountability and services for those with underlying problems that contribute to their commission of theft crimes.
8. Cracking down on resale of stolen goods, including such resale via social media and other online platforms.
9. Adding enforcement tools, including providing law enforcement the ability to arrest persons for misdemeanor theft offenses involving a value of \$950 or less committed out of their presence when probable cause for such arrest exists.

These areas of reform along with Cal Cities [Existing Summary of Existing Policy and Guiding Principles](#) are used by Cal Cities to review legislation.