



June 24, 2025

Honorable Rex Richardson
Mayor of Long Beach
City Hall, 333 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Self-Checkout Ordinance and Request for Meeting

Dear Mayor Richardson,

The California Retailers Association (CRA) opposes the "Safe Stores are Staffed Stores Ordinance" under consideration by the Long Beach City Council. We urge the Council to reconsider this measure, as it does not account for the robust, recently enacted state-level protections against retail theft and workplace violence, and risks duplicating or conflicting with these comprehensive efforts.

Comprehensive State Retail Theft Protections

The proposed ordinance overlooks the historic, bipartisan 2024 retail theft package signed by Governor Newsom, which delivers the most significant reforms in decades to protect retailers, employees, and customers. These new laws provide powerful tools to law enforcement and retailers, including:

- **Expanded Probable Cause and Use of Video Evidence:** Officers can now arrest individuals for shoplifting based on probable cause, even if the theft was not committed in the officer's presence. Critically, this includes the use of video footage as evidence, sworn witness statements, or other indicators such as possession of goods inconsistent with personal use or bearing store security devices.¹
- **Aggregation of Theft Values:** Prosecutors can aggregate the value of stolen property across different victims or counties to reach the felony threshold, closing a key loophole exploited by organized retail crime.²
- **Retail Theft Restraining Orders:** Courts can now issue restraining orders prohibiting individuals convicted of retail theft, vandalism, or assault of a retail employee from entering the affected store, or, in the case of chain stores, multiple locations, for up to two years. These orders can also be issued upon a petition by a retailer or public attorney for repeat offenders, even absent a conviction, based on a preponderance of evidence.³
- **New Felony Charges and Enhanced Penalties:** Possession of more than \$950 in stolen goods with intent to sell is now a felony, and sentencing enhancements are mandated for large-scale thefts, arson, and organized retail crime.^{4 5 6}
- **Permanent Funding and Task Forces:** The package includes permanent funding for the CHP ORC Task Forces, to ensure sustained enforcement and prosecution efforts.^{7 8}
- **Multi-County Prosecution Across Counties:** With agreement by all district attorneys with jurisdiction over the offense, expands the territorial jurisdiction in which theft, organized retail

¹ Assembly Bill 2943 (Zbur, 2024)

² Assembly Bill 2954 (Zbur, 2024)

³ Assembly Bill 3209 (Berman, 2024)

⁴ Senate Bill 1416 (Newman, 2024)

⁵ Assembly Bill 1960 (Rivas, 2024)

⁶ Senate Bill 1242 (Min, 2024)

⁷ Assembly Bill 1802 (Jones-Sawyer, 2024)

⁸ Senate Bill 982 (Wahab, 2024)

theft and receiving/selling stolen property offenses (and all associated offenses) can be prosecuted to include the county in which the offense occurred; the property was recovered; or the defendant instigated, promoted, or aided in the commission of the offense.

- **Protection for businesses from being cited or fined for reporting retail theft:** Prohibits law enforcement or a local jurisdiction from bringing or threatening a nuisance action against a business solely for reporting retail crime, unless the report is knowingly false.

These reforms were crafted in partnership with retailers, law enforcement, and state leaders, and are fully funded to ensure effective implementation. They address the root causes and enforcement gaps that the proposed local ordinance seeks to remedy, but do so in a coordinated, statewide manner, without increasing costs to California consumers, as the proposed ordinance has the potential to do.

Pending Cal/OSHA Workplace Violence Regulations

In addition to the retail theft package, the state is implementing new workplace violence prevention rules under Senate Bill 553 (Cortese, 2023). These rules require:

- Employer-developed violence prevention plans tailored to address specific hazards
- Mandatory employee training on violence prevention and de-escalation
- Violent incident logging and investigation

Cal/OSHA is finalizing further regulations to clarify engineering controls and staffing protocols, with a deadline of December 31, 2026. Imposing overlapping local mandates now risks confusion and unnecessary burdens on businesses, particularly as the state's framework is still being implemented.

Request for Collaboration

It is unfortunate that city leaders did not reach out to the California Retailers Association prior to moving forward with the ordinance, but instead chose to reach out to only one stakeholder who does not represent the majority of stores that will be impacted by this ordinance. I respectfully request a meeting, as soon as possible, to discuss how Long Beach can leverage these new state protections and workplace safety standards, and to explore alternative, collaborative strategies for reducing retail theft and enhancing safety, prior to any more action on this ordinance.

As the individual who negotiated the retail theft package, directly with Legislative Leaders and the Governor, I am personally committed to working with you to ensure public safety of our employees and customers in the retail setting while supporting the economic vitality of Long Beach, without causing harm to businesses and consumers with increased costs.

Please contact me at (916) 443-1975 or cra@calretailers.com to schedule an in-person or virtual meeting as quickly as possible.

Respectfully,



Rachel Michelin
President, California Retailers Association

CC: Members of the Long Beach City Council
Tom Modica, Long Beach City Manager
Dawn McIntosh, Long Beach City Attorney
State Senator Lena Gonzalez, 33rd District
Assemblymember Mike Gipson, 65th District
Assemblymember Josh Lowenthal, 69th District