



June 24, 2024

The Honorable Marc Berman
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8130
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 3209 – Crimes: theft: retail theft restraining orders – Support
(As Amended June 4, 2024)**

Dear Assemblymember Berman,

On behalf of the City of Carlsbad, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill (AB) 3209, which would authorize a court to impose a Retail Crime Restraining Order for a theft offense, vandalism, or battery on an employee within the store.

In recent years, rates of retail theft and robbery have risen in California. According to the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), the state has seen a significant increase in commercial shoplifting from the unusually low rates of the pandemic years. The rise in more organized and high dollar thefts and robberies affects both our communities and businesses.

The growing issue of retail theft and robbery as well as vandalism and assault on employees in retail must be addressed to ensure the safety of our communities and businesses. In 2023, the California State Assembly established a Select Committee on Retail Theft to further examine this problem and seek thoughtful solutions that do not create undue hardship to our communities. A retail crime restraining order is one of these solutions that provides a balance in providing enforcement tools for retail crimes while implementing a reasonable restriction that does not exacerbate the underlying issues of poverty.

AB 3209 would authorize a court to impose a Retail Crime Restraining Order for up to two years upon conviction, or following two or more citations, for a theft offense, vandalism, or battery on an employee within the store. It would allow a prosecutor, city attorney, county counsel, or attorney representing a retail establishment to seek a restraining order following two citations and without requiring a conviction. This bill would provide a new enforcement tool that will keep stores and workers safe from crime while also ensuring it does not exacerbate issues of poverty.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 3209 and thank you for your leadership on this most important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Sharon Gonsalves with Renne Public Policy Group at 916-974-9270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Blackburn'.

Keith Blackburn
Mayor

City of Carlsbad City Council

City Hall 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive | Carlsbad, CA 92008 | 442-339-2820 t

CC: The Honorable Catherine Blakespear, Senate District 38

Jith Meganathan, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor Gavin Newsom's Office of Legislative Affairs