



ANNETTE C. DELGADILLO
Mayor

PEGGY LEMONS
Vice Mayor

ISABEL AGUAYO
Councilmember

BRENDA OLMOS
Councilmember

VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS
Councilmember

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Rick Zbur
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4250
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2943 (ZBUR) CRIMES: THEFT
NOTICE OF SUPPORT IF AMENDED (As Amended on April 11, 2024)**

Dear Assembly Member:

The City of Paramount supports, if amended, AB 2943 (Rivas), which would make several changes to retail theft, organized retail theft, and shoplifting.

Specifically, AB 2943 (Rivas) would make the following changes to statute:

- Creates a new crime and penalty for retail theft including shoplifting, theft or burglary, for those that are repeat offenders.
- Provides that charges may be filed in multiple jurisdictions.
- Allows for the aggregation of certain offenses.
- Increases the terms of probation from 1 year to 2 years.
- Clarifies the ability for police to arrest without witnessing the crime.
- Extends the sunset date on the organized retail theft statute until 2031.

The City of Paramount is in support of many of the provisions in AB 2943, however, our members have requested the following clarifications in order for the measure to be as comprehensive as possible (for the full set of amendments please see the attachment):

- Include provisions in the aggregation section which currently provides for a common scheme or plan to be used to also reference the rule set forth in People v Bailey and cases related to multiple thefts. As currently written, this section does not adequately address the case law and therefore could result in the inability for prosecutors to aggregate multiple offenses.

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- Add an amendment to the ability to arrest section to include the ability for police to use unsworn statements taken from one or more persons when these statements demonstrate probable cause to believe that the person to be arrested committed the violation.
- Clarifying amendment regarding the successful completion of probation to provide that the completion should be determined by the probation-supervising court.

Paramount has experienced a significant increase in the rate of recidivism committed by retail theft offenders. Businesses have been targeted as part of local and regional retail theft sprees where organized perpetrators strike multiple establishments in a chain of criminal activity. AB 2943 would help law enforcement hold these repeat and multiple-time offenders accountable by strengthening penalties, increasing probation terms, and providing accurate aggregations of the underlying criminal offenses. These actions would help disincentivize suspects from continuing to commit the persistent and pervasive property crimes that have so heavily burdened the Paramount business community.

We would like to thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. The City of Paramount looks forward to additional amendments and provisions to ensure that AB 2943 is as robust as possible.

For these reasons, the City of Paramount supports AB 2943 if amended. Please feel free to contact City Manager John Moreno at (562) 220-2225, if you have any questions. On behalf of the City of Paramount, we thank you for your time and consideration.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT



Annette C. Delgadillo
Mayor

cc. Honorable State Senator Lena Gonzalez, 33rd District
Honorable Assembly Speaker Emeritus Anthony Rendon, 62nd District
Kristine Guerrero, Regional Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities
Jorge Morales, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Consultant, California
Contract Cities Association