



ANNETTE C. DELGADILLO
Mayor

PEGGY LEMONS
Vice Mayor

ISABEL AGUAYO
Councilmember

BRENDA OLMOS
Councilmember

VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS
Councilmember

May 13, 2024

The Honorable Mike McGuire
President pro Tempore
1021 O Street, Suite #8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Josh Newman
Member, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite #6520
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Member, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite #8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Juan Alanis
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite #4640
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: RESELLERS AND FENCING OF STOLEN PROPERTY LEGISLATION

Dear Members:

One of the City of Paramount's top priorities is to address crime and retail theft, organized retail theft and shoplifting. Our city is pleased that both houses of the Legislature have made this issue a priority in 2024. As such, the City of Paramount would like to identify a few bills that we believe help to address the issue of reselling and fencing of stolen property acquired through theft.

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.

Dedicated to providing fiscally responsible services that maintain a vibrant community.

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The rising rate of theft offenses such as commercial burglary necessitate viable resale operations of those stolen goods such as fencing location or the use of online third-party marketplaces. Reducing the ease with which stolen items can be resold through these secondary operations is a critical step in providing any comprehensive solution to the issue of retail theft. SB 301 (Skinner, 2023) attempted to address this issue by requiring reporting by high-volume third-party sellers utilizing online marketplaces. However, there were some gaps noted in this legislation and the federal legislation that still need to be addressed.

Therefore, we support the following bills:

AB 1845 (Alanis) Crimes: Grant Program for Identifying, Apprehending, and Prosecuting Resale of Stolen Property
(As Amended on 2/21/2024)

SB 1144 (Skinner) Marketplaces: Online Marketplaces
(As Amended on 4/4/2024)

SB 1381 (McGuire) Property Crimes: Regional Property Crimes Task Force
(As Amended on 3/20/2024)

SB 1416 (Newman) Sentencing Enhancements: Sale, Exchange, or Return of Stolen Property
(As Amended on 4/16/2024)

These bills propose several methods of addressing resale of stolen property and fencing locations that facilitate this illegal sale of stolen property. These methods range from providing funding and task forces for law enforcement to identify and crack down on these fencing operations, to creating sentencing enhancements for individuals convicted of selling property acquired through theft.

Providing supportive mechanisms for the enforcement of property crime and enacting sentencing enhancements will significantly aid the City of Paramount's business community. Small businesses like beauty supply shops, clothing stores, and other independently owned retail establishments in Paramount have experienced a significant increase in smash and grab robbery incidents where stolen merchandise is later listed online or sold in-person via intermediaries. Walmart has reported a rise in commercial burglary and retail theft at our local location as well. Approval of these bills would aid in financially disincentivizing criminals from committing these types of property crime, allow us to enforce violations more effectively, and help further hold the enabling economic accomplices accountable.

NOTICE OF SUPPORT - RESELLERS AND FENCING OF STOLEN PROPERTY
LEGISLATION

May 13, 2024

Page 3

For these reasons, the City of Paramount supports AB 1845 (Alanis), SB 1144 (Skinner), SB 1381 (McGuire), and SB 1416 (Newman). 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