

City of Palo Alto

Office of the Mayor and City Council

May 16, 2024

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

**RE: AB 2943 (Zbur): Crimes: Shoplifting
City of Palo Alto – Notice of Support**

Dear Assembly Member Zbur,

I write on behalf of the City of Palo Alto to support AB 2943, which makes numerous changes to law that strengthen law enforcement positions and provide additional enforcement tools to combat retail theft.

Specifically, this bill authorizes peace officers to make warrantless arrests for misdemeanor shoplifting, ensures that theft against multiple victims committed in multiple counties may be aggregated and charged as grand theft, and creates new penalties for possession of stolen property with the intent to resell.

Existing law authorizes a person to be charged with grand theft if the property taken exceeds \$950 over the course of distinct but related acts. AB 2943 clarifies that those related acts include acts committed against multiple victims or in counties other than the county of the current offense. This measure also clarifies that in determining whether acts are motivated by one intention, one general impulse, and one plan, the court may consider, but is not limited to, evidence that the acts involve the same defendant or defendants, are substantially similar in nature, or occurs within a 60-day period. AB 2943 extends the sunset date on existing provisions that authorize non-release for arrests relating to repeat thefts and organized retail theft until January 1, 2031.

Commercial burglary has increased statewide, becoming the most common type of retail crime in recent years, and is at its highest rate since 2008.

Widespread retail crime is not only bad for businesses and a source of shopper inconvenience – it is an issue of safety for workers and business owners, as well as an issue of the public's perception of safety. AB 2943 contains crucial elements to aid law enforcement in keeping our communities and businesses safe.

For these reasons, the City of Palo Alto supports AB 2943.

Sincerely,



Greer Stone
Mayor
City of Palo Alto

cc: Senator Josh Becker
Assembly Member Marc Berman