Organized Retail Theft Vertical Prosecution Grant Program



Local Evaluation Plan

Submitted by: Yolo County District Attorney

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Prepared by:

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Project Background

Communities across the United States and California are experiencing a surge of organized retail crime (ORC), that is straining both law enforcement capacity and community resilience. The impacts to local economies and businesses have been deeply felt, and the harms have been far-reaching. In recent years, Yolo County has consistently ranked amongst the top areas impacted by ORC, with major retailers like Target and Walmart reporting regional losses in the millions. In the face of this rising tide, economically strained rural counties like Yolo, have been ill-equipped to deploy the targeted efforts needed to fight against theft crimes. Local law enforcement agencies lack the staffing to undertake time-intensive projects targeting retail theft and feel recent legislative changes have stripped them of the ability to levy any meaningful judicial

consequence that balances the risk their officers face in intervention, meanwhile retailers feel unsupported in the fight against rising crime rates.

With support from the ORT VP grant, the Yolo County District Attorney (YCDA has been able to establish a Vertical Prosecution Unit (VPU focused on implementing innovative strategies to combat organized retail crime in the region. The YCDA VPU is now the first point of contact for retail crime cases in Yolo County and has facilitated increased collaboration and trust between local retailers and law enforcement through participation in the RILA Vibrant Communities Initiative and the newly created FastPass direct-report retail theft prosecution portal. The FastPass reporting process is outlined in the figure to the right:



Project Description

YCDA's VPU is designed around an experienced District Attorney Investigator (DAI), a Deputy District Attorney (DDA), and a Crime Intelligence Analyst (CIA). A DDA and DAI have already been assigned to the unit and completed necessary training. They will begin full-time work in the next quarter. A crime analyst will be retained in the coming months, and in the interim the DAI and DDA are working with other staff to do the crime intelligence analyst work. The VPU have implemented sophisticated investigative and legal strategies to achieve case-specific outcomes designed to reduce the rates of retail theft across the County, and surrounding regions. Their teamwork ensures a thorough examination of cases and maximizes long-term outcomes to reduce ORT.

The project targets retail crimes, including felony offenses, ORC, conspiracies, incidents involving violence against staff, and theft over \$500. The project adheres to existing County policies governing the use of surveillance technology and privacy laws.

Yolo's ORT VPU is currently targeting their efforts to the cities of West Sacramento, Davis, and Woodland, three areas within the County where retailers have reported surges in ORT. Cases are received through standard case review and YCDA's innovative new FastPass direct reporting portal. YCDA's VPU has already begun filing cases received through FastPass from retail partners such as Walmart, Target, and Home Depot. They have already established relationships with other retailers such as Ulta, Best Buy, Lowe's, and CVS, who will begin submitting reports through the FastPass portal soon.

Once identified, cases are assigned to the dedicated ORT DDA, with support from the ORT DAI for investigation and coordination with local law enforcement as needed. Cases received through standard review adhere to YCDA's Race Blind Charging policy, which removes racially identifying info prior to case review to limit racial bias in the charging process. When a report is submitted to FastPass by a retailer, the VPU works directly with the retailer to collect evidence that will allow the assigned DDA to determine the case's viability and prosecution strategy. Those participants identified as appropriate for diversion are referred to the YCDA's Restorative Justice Partnership (RJP).

The Unit has hosted several trainings for retail partners, in collaboration with local law enforcement, covering topics such as report-writing, criminal prosecution procedure, court testimony, follow-up investigation, and using FastPass. Quarterly meetings have been held with retail partners to discuss the FastPass program's successes, challenges, addressing issues moving forward. The VPU also attends monthly trainings and meetings hosted by the California Highway Patrol's ORC Task Force, which bring together law enforcement, retailers, and prosecutors to present and discuss active investigations and legal issues. Such collaborative training ensures all stakeholders understand and adhere to acceptable policies and procedures, such as those governing the use of surveillance technology, compliance with privacy laws and secure collection of storage and data.

The YCDA is also partnering with surrounding counties' District Attorney's and law enforcement agencies to share information and investigate these crimes to assist in their prosecution. These efforts will be strengthened by the incoming crime analyst who will collect and analyze incoming data to identify patterns and criminal networks, track trends and outcomes, and examine the effectiveness of different legal strategies.

The VPU's streamlined model allows for better stakeholder communication, improved incident reporting, and strategic prosecution for better outcomes in ORC cases. All VPU assigned cases are tracked from intake to disposition, to ensure the data can be reviewed to find patterns and criminal networks, highlighting ORC, and the DDA can track trends and outcomes for the effectiveness of legal strategies. This highly focused

approach will enable the Yolo ORT VPU to meet the project goals and objectives outlined below:

Goal #1: Organize with retailers and local agencies to better address ORC

Objective 1: Launch the Retail Theft Prevention Program (RTPP) to facilitate collaboration, reporting, and analysis among retailers, asset protection teams, and law enforcement agencies by allowing stakeholders to directly submit reports to the Yolo County District Attorney (YCDA).

Objective 2: Coordinate with community prosecutors to establish bilateral communication with retailers, asset protection teams (APT), and local agencies. This step is crucial in ensuring that all stakeholders are on the same page and that critical information about ORC is shared efficiently and effectively.

Objective 3: Use information received to identify criminality, and prosecute effectively. By using information shared through the RTPP and other channels, law enforcement agencies can develop a better understanding of the scope and nature of ORC and target their enforcement efforts accordingly.

Goal #2: Successfully prosecute ORC in Yolo County through the VPM unit

Objective 1: Identify repeat offenders and instances of ORC within Yolo County. Highlighting these offenses will allow us to identify criminal networks and fundamentally address ORC.

Objective 2: Increase rate of ORC cases to trial and prosecuted within Yolo County. This is consistent with the goal of reducing ORC in the area and providing a safer environment for residents and business.

Objective 3: Use VPM for ORC cases, from charging to sentencing. This ensures ORC cases are handled effectively and consistently, and that all stakeholders are able to be addressed by dedicated staff.

Goal #3: Address long-term rates of ORC within Yolo County, with dedicated case-specific outcomes and RJP sourced strategies as appropriate

Objective 1: Identify cases where justice will benefit from alternatives to incarceration. These include rehabilitation programs or community-based interventions, that will lead to long-term justice by addressing the underlying issues and promoting rehabilitation.

Objective 2: Reintegrate and restore relations between offenders, victims and community members through the RJP process, encouraging dialogue and addressing the harm caused by the offense. By facilitating communication and understanding, the RJP seeks to foster healing, accountability, and reconciliation between the involved parties.

Objective 3: Achieve long-term reductions in recidivism, retail crime, and ORC rates. Implementing case-specific strategies and interventions will allow the YCDA to address the root causes of criminality, leading to safer communities.

Project Logic Model

Inputs

- ORT VP Grant funding
- 3FTE positions assigned to VPU
- Non-grant funded staff time dedicated to ORT cases
- Innovation Specialist to support data collection
- LawSuite case management systems
- Partners (retailers, law enforcement, sheriff)
- Online reporting portal (FastPass)
- Restorative Justice diversion program (RJP) volunteers and staff time

Activities

- Develop & launch the RTPP ("FastPass") reporting portal
- Hiring/recruiting staff for ORT VP team/unit (DAI, DDA, CSA.)
- Identify structure and functions of ORT VP unit positions
- Training provided for ORT VP team/unit
- Establish program protocol to analyze, investigate and prosecute repeat and organized offenders
- Quarterly RILA meetings
- Monthly CHP ORC Task Force Meetings
- Monthly FastPass Meetings
- Use expertise of the VPU and RJP units to identify cases where RJP/Diversion is appropriate
- identify repeat offenders and instances of ORC within Yolo County
- Use RJP conference format to foster a sustainable resolution for all parties
- Analyze data for usable information and trends

Outputs

- # reports received via RTPP/FastPass
- 2.5 FTE staff assigned & trained for VPU
- # ORT cases reviewed
- # ORT prosecutions per year of the grant
- # ORT investigations per year of the grant
- direct collaboration with community prosecutors, retailers, and local agencies
- # total ORT referrals received per year of the grant
- # individuals referred to RJP per year of grant
- # repeat offenders prosecuted
- # ORT cases filed per year of the grant
- # ORT convictions

Outcomes

- Increase in reported ORT incidents received from retailers
- all VPU positions filled and trained by end Year One
- Increase in rate of successful ORT prosecutions
- Increase in ORT cases filed
- Improved conviction rates for ORT cases
- Improved quality and timeliness of information sharing between DA offices, law enforcement, local retailers, and asset protection teams (APT)
- promising strategies for addressing ORC identified
- high completion rate for cases diverted by VPU
- restorative agreements reached between offenders, victims, and community members in RJP
- reintegration and positive behavioral change/connections to appropriate resources for diverted offenders

Impacts

- Improved retailer morale
- -Improved law enforcement morale
- Improved economic outcomes
 > decrease in shrink/loss for businesses
- > Businesses stay in neighborhoods/communities
- Reduced recidivism
- Safer communities
- -Positive Community Response to ORT reduction efforts
- increased community engagement in criminal justice system
- long-term reductions in recidivism, retail crime, and ORC rates

Planned Work

Intended Result

Process Evaluation Method and Design – Matrix

Input/Resource/Activity/Output	Data Element(s)	Data Source(s)	Frequency of Data Collection
Develop & launch the RTPP ("FastPass") reporting portal	# of retailers signed on to FastPass and rate of reporting.	System usage analytics.	Throughout duration of grant
Hiring/recruiting staff 3 FTE staff (DDA, DAI, CI Analyst) assigned to ORT VPU	# of staff assigned to ORT VPU	Employment records	Annually throughout duration of grant
Establish program protocol to analyze, investigate and prosecute repeat and organized offenders	VPU Training and onboarding hours completed.	Employment records, training logs, program/office memos	Throughout duration of grant
Direct collaboration with retailers and law enforcement	Meetings/trainings attended	Meeting minutes, attendance records/logs.	Quarterly
Increased ORC reporting by retailers.	# of cases received via FastPass portal and traditional reporting compared to baseline data.	YCDA Case Management system.	Annually
Increased ORT investigations	# of ORT investigations per year of the grant.	Case management system, Investigative Software	Annually throughout duration of grant
Improved ORC report quality	% of cases needing extensive investigation before charging.	VPU investigation records	Annually throughout duration of grant
Strategic prosecution of ORC	% of filed ORC cases resulting in conviction.	YCDA Case Management System.	Each time an individual is prosecuted by VPU.
Use expertise of the VPU and RJP units to identify cases where RJP/Diversion is appropriate.	# ORC cases referred to RJP/other diversion program	YCDA Case Management System and RJP records.	Each time an individual is diverted throughout duration of grant
Timely prosecution.	Average time taken from charging an ORC case to reaching a sentencing decision.	YCDA Case Management System.	Annually throughout duration of grant
Track and analyze ORC patterns, identify repeat offenders and instances of ORC within Yolo County	# of unique individuals involved in multiple ORC incidents.	YCDA Case Management System and VPU records.	Throughout duration of grant

Process Evaluation Method and Design

The process evaluation will use a mixed methods research design. The Vertical Prosecution model project requires collaboration and input from key stakeholders. Both quantitative and qualitative information will be gathered from external stakeholders, largely through the FastPass portal and system usage analytics. Data, including the outcomes achieved by the VPU and other legal strategies, will also be gathered from the YCDA case management system. These data sets will be stored and organized in YCDA databases. Existing professional staff time will be leveraged to assist with data entry and processing as needed, and data will be reviewed by the project's internal oversight team, ensuring proper collection and analysis is taking place.

Process evaluation will focus on meeting readiness timelines during start-up and measuring the effectiveness of strategies during service delivery. This will identify strengths and areas for improvement to enhance efforts to successfully implement the project's objectives and facilitate the reduction of theft-related property crimes through vertical prosecution and the appropriate sentencing of convicted offenders.

Oversight for the project will be principally provided by an internal oversight team. The oversight team is composed of two supervising DDAs and the DA's Chief Investigator, all of whom have proven records in project management, oversight, and familiarity with VPUs. District Attorney Jeff Reisig holds final decision-making power.

The internal oversight team will also closely monitor project data collection and conduct comprehensive preliminary monitoring to track progress and key performance indicators (KPI). The oversight team will meet quarterly with the project lead to review the status of activities aligned with project objectives, prosecution strategies, and early findings. These meetings will provide an opportunity to assess procedures and promote accountability. This approach will enhance the likelihood of achieving desired outcomes for the program.

Outcome Evaluation Method and Design – Matrix

Outcome	Definition	Data Source(s)	Frequency of Data Collection
Increased ORC reporting	Increase in rate of reported ORT incidents received from retailers	Case management system	Each time an ORT report is received
Promising strategies for addressing ORC identified	Increase in the number of filed cases resulting in conviction	Case management system	Each time a case is closed
Increase in ORT prosecutions	Increase in the number of ORT cases filed	Case management system	Each time a case is filed
Improved quality and timeliness of information sharing between DA offices, law enforcement, and local and online retailer	Increase in collaboration between agencies in gathering information and evidence to file ORT cases	Case management system, survey responses, system utilization records	Each time a report is submitted
Improvement in timely disposition of ORT cases	Decrease in the amount of time a case goes through court processes	Case management system and court records	Each time a case is filed
Improved retailer morale	# of retailers submitting feedback on FastPass	Survey responses.	Each time a retailer survey is received throughout duration of grant
Restorative agreements reached between offenders, victims, and community members in RJP	% of VPU referrals to RJP that reach an agreement (complete an RJ conference)	RJP records	Annually throughout duration of grant
High completion rate for cases diverted by VPU	% of retail crime and ORC cases that graduate RJP program	YCDA Case Management System and RJP records	Annually throughout duration of grant
Rate of recidivism for retail crime and ORC RJP graduates, as compared to incarcerated offenders.	% of recidivism for RJP graduates	YCDA Case Management System and RJP records	One time, LER
Reintegration and positive behavioral change/connections to appropriate resources for diverted offenders	% of RJP graduates referred by VPU with positive responses to SSM or similar post-completion quality of life survey	Survey, interview response	One time, LER

Outcome Evaluation Method and Design

The outcome evaluation will use a mixed methods research design. The VPU will generate quantitative data that will improve on current metrics, or absence of metrics, allowing for an accurate assessment of the strategies implemented. The YCDA oversight team will also review the comprehensive data to holistically compare results to intended outcomes during close-out. They will summarize their findings and conclusions in a brief memo. Qualitative data will also be gathered from staff and other stakeholders in the form of surveys, interviews, and meeting notes.

The quantitative data, oversight team findings, and other qualitative data will all be forwarded to an external evaluator, with whom YCDA will contract to ensure an objective assessment of the results of the project, and address the following evaluation questions:

- 1. Was the VPU implemented with fidelity to project design?
 - Were all implementation activities completed within the projected timeline?
 - Were objective targets met to within 80% of expected numerical goals?
 - Were key stakeholders engaged through collaboration with community prosecutors?
 - Did technology facilitate collaboration, reporting, and analysis?
 - Was the VP model utilized from charging to sentencing?
 - · Was data used to identify criminality, and prosecute effectively?
 - Were diversion and alternatives to incarceration utilized where appropriate?
 - What were the strengths, challenges and lessons learned during project implementation?
- 2. How was the program experienced by stakeholders?
 - Was stakeholder communication improved?
 - Was the rate of retailer reporting increased?
 - What feedback or recommendations did stakeholders provide to improve the project?
 - Were prosecution strategy and investigation efficiency enhanced?
 - Were diverted offenders positively reintegrated with victims and community members through a restorative justice conference?
 - Was stakeholder morale improved?
 - Was community safety positively impacted?

- 3. What was the impact of the VPU on organized retail theft?
 - Was ORC prosecution in Yolo County increased?
 - Were case-specific outcomes increased?
 - Were repeat and organized crime offenders identified and prosecuted successfully?
 - Were ORC rates in Yolo County reduced?
 - Was there a difference in impact by risk level, charge, or demographic group?
 - Were recidivism rates reduced for diverted offenders?
 - Were short- and medium-term outcomes achieved?
 - Are long term reductions in recidivism, retail crime, and ORC rates reasonably anticipated based on current outcomes?

The evaluator will analyze the projects quantitative and qualitative outcome data with respect to the program's stated goals and objectives and in response to the questions outlined above, and the preliminary findings outlined by the oversight team. Baseline data will be used to compare outcomes for similarly situated individuals and to help isolate the specific program impacts and uncover possible patterns or concerns. Policy and system changes implemented in the timeframe will also be identified and assessed for potential impact on program outcomes.

Appendix A: Additional Logic Model Guidance

Include relevant supplementary evaluation and project materials in appendices. These may include, but are not limited to, data collection instruments, more detailed descriptions of activities and interventions, training materials, educational materials, operational definitions, additional analyses, and presentations.

Appendix B: Project Work Plan

(1) Goal:	> Organize with retailers and local agencies to better address organized retail crime (ORC)			
Objectives (A., B., etc.)	 Objective 1: Launch the Retail Theft Prevention Program (RTPP). This program will facilitate collaboration, reporting, and analysis among retailers, asset protection teams, and law enforcement agencies by allowing stakeholders to directly submit reports to the Yolo County District Attorney (YCDA). Objective 2: Coordinate with community prosecutors to establish direct communication with retailers, asset protection teams (APT), and local agencies. This step is crucial in ensuring that all stakeholders are on the same page and that critical information about ORC is shared efficiently and effectively. 			
	> Objective 3 : Use the information received to identify criminality and prosecute effectively. By using information shared through the RTPP and other channels, law enforcement agencies can develop a better understanding of the scope and nature of ORC and target their enforcement efforts accordingly.			
Process Measures and Outcome Measures:	> Process Measures: 1. Number of retailers signed on to access RTPP 2. Number of retailers submitting feedback on			
Outcome Measures.	RTPP 3. Time from launch to first actionable report. > Outcome Measures: 1. Number of cases submitted to portal 2. Rate of cases where charges are filed 3. Rate of cases needing extensive investigation before charging.			
Project activities that support the identified goal and objectives:		Responsible staff/partners	Timeline	
			Start Date	End Date
 Activity 1. Develop the RTPP Activity 2. Initiate direct collaboration with stakeholders Activity 3. Analyze initial data to identify key information for ongoing collection and tracking 		> Community Prosecutors, IT staff, ORC Deputy District Attorney (DDA), ORC District Attorney Investigator (DAI), ORC Criminal Intelligence Analyst (CIA)	10/1/2023	12/31/2024

Data and sources to be used to measure outcomes:

- > Objective 1 Data: the number of retailers and local agencies registered on the RTPP portal, the frequency of collaboration and reporting, and feedback from users about the usefulness of the portal. Sources: survey responses, user reviews and system usage analytics.
- > **Objective 2 Data**: number of retailers directly contacted, the frequency and quality of communication with retailers and APTs, and any feedback from these stakeholders about the effectiveness of the coordination. **Sources**: meeting minutes, stakeholder interviews, and survey responses.
- > **Objective 3 Data:** the number and types of criminal cases related to ORC identified and prosecuted, the success rate of prosecutions. **Sources**: court records, law enforcement reports, and survey responses.

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(2) Goal:	> Successfully Prosecute ORC in Yolo County through the vertical prosecution model (VPM)			
Objectives (A., B., etc.)	> Objective 1: identify repeat retail crime offenders and ORC patterns in Yolo County. Highlighting these offenses will			
	allow us to identify criminal networks and fundamentally address ORC.			
	> Objective 2: increase the number of ORC cases that are brought to trial and prosecuted within Yolo County. This is			
	consistent with the goal of reducing ORC in the area and providing a safer environment for residents and business.			
	> Objective 3: Use the VPM to handle ORC cases from charging to sentencing. This ensures ORC cases are handled			
	effectively and consistently, and that all stakeholders are able to be addressed by dedicated staff.			
Process Measures and	> Process Measures: 1. Number of retail crime and ORC cases filed by YCDA overall. 2. Number of retail crime and			
Outcome Measures:	ORC cases assigned to the VPM unit.			
	> Outcome Measures: 1. Number of retail	il crime and ORC cases convicte	d by YCDA. 2. Number	of retail crime and
	ORC cases convicted by VPM unit.		•	
Project activities that support the identified goal and objectives:		Responsible staff/partners	Timeline	
			Start Date	End Date
> Activity 1: Establish analytical and investigative processes to		> ORC DDA, DAI, and CIA	> 1/1/2025	12/31/2026
identify ORC cases.				
> Activity 2: Prioritize investigating and prosecuting repeat and				
organized offenders.				
> Activity 3: Record rates of ORC cases and prosecution over time.				

Data and sources to be used to measure outcomes:

- > Objective 1 Data: Number of unique individuals involved in multiple ORC incidents. Source: YCDA Case management database that tracks ORC.
- > **Objective 2 Data**: Conviction rate of ORC cases. **Source**: YCDA case management database, which maintain data on the outcomes of ORC cases, including the number of convictions, dismissals, or acquittals.
- > **Objective 3 Data:** Average time taken from charging an ORC case to reaching a sentencing decision. **Source:** VPM database that records the timeline of each ORC case, from the initial charging to the final sentencing phase.

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(3) Goal:	> Decrease rate of ORC in Yolo County Partnership (RJP) diversion	through dedicated case-specif	ic outcomes and Rest	orative Justice
Objectives (A., B., etc.)	Objective 1: Identify cases where offenders and victims will benefit from alternatives to incarceration. These include rehabilitation programs or community-based interventions, that will lead to long-term justice by addressing the underlying issues and promoting rehabilitation.			
	Objective 2: Reintegrate and restore relations between offenders, victims and community members through the RJP process, encouraging dialogue and addressing the harm caused by the offense. By facilitating communication and understanding, the RJP seeks to foster healing, accountability, and reconciliation between the involved parties.			
	Objective 3: Achieve lasting reductions in recidivism, retail crime, and ORC rates. Implementing case-specific strategies and interventions will allow the YCDA to address the root causes of criminality, leading to safer communities.			
Process Measures and	> Process Measures: 1. Number of retail crime cases diverted to RJP 2. Number of ORC cases diverted to RJP			
Outcome Measures:	3. Rate of retail crime and ORC cases tha			
	> Outcome Measures: 1. Rate of recidivism for retail crime and ORC RJP graduates, as compared to incarcerated			
	offenders. 2. Rate of program effectiveness for different populations such as age groups, one-time, or repeat offenders.			
Project activities that support the identified goal and objectives:		Responsible staff/partners	Timeline	
			Start Date	End Date
> Activity 1: Use expertise of the VPM and RJP units to identify		> RJP unit, ORC DDA, DAI,	1/1/2025	12/31/2026
cases for restorative process.		and CIA		
> Activity 2: Use RJP conference format to foster a sustainable				
resolution for all parties.				
> Activity 3: Maintain detailed record of legal strategies and				
outcomes, as to inform future diversion and sentencing decisions.				

Data and sources to be used to measure outcomes:

- > **Objective 1 Data**: Rate of successful completion of alternative sentencing programs. **Sources**: Records and data maintained by alternative sentencing programs.
- > **Objective 2 Data:** Participant feedback on the perceived impact of the restorative justice process. **Sources:** Surveys, interviews, or feedback collected from participants involved in the restorative justice process, including offenders, victims, and community members.
- > **Objective 3 Data:** Comparison of recidivism rates, retail crime rates, and ORC rates before and after implementing intervention strategies. **Sources:** Law enforcement agencies, court records, or relevant databases that track recidivism rates, retail crime rates, and ORC rates.

Appendix C: Fast Pass Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 7, 2024 **Contact:** Wendy Wilcox, Executive Asst. to DA

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Yolo DA Announces the Launch of "FastPass to Prosecution" Combatting Retail
Theft through Retailer-Initiated Reporting and Rapid Prosecution



Woodland, CA – March 7, 2024 – On Tuesday, March 5th, Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig, in collaboration with Yolo County law enforcement leaders and asset protection professionals from Walmart, held a press conference at the West Sacramento Walmart Supercenter, announcing the launch of an innovative new Direct-to-DA retailer reporting program designed to dramatically expedite the investigation and prosecution of retail crimes. The "FastPass to Prosecution" program was launched in the Fall of 2023 in partnership with several major retailers, including Walmart, Target, Walgreens, CVS, Raley's, The Home Depot and several other retailers operating in Yolo County.

"Theft and other crimes against retailers have been worsening in California for some time. In fact, district attorneys, law enforcement and retailers are nearly unanimous in

describing the current situation in California as chaotic and out-of-control. Not only has the level of theft increased dramatically, but thieves have become increasingly brazen and sometimes violent. The status quo approach to these crimes is not working," said District Attorney Reisig.

FastPass was designed to provide retailers another option to report non-emergency crimes that have been investigated and documented internally, directly to the DA, who possesses the exclusive authority to file formal criminal complaints. FastPass is not designed to deter retailers from calling 911 in an emergency or reporting crimes to police and sheriffs, and nothing prevents law enforcement from responding, but because of factors outside the control of police and sheriffs, including high priority call volume and limited staffing, some police responses can be delayed or impractical.

"By utilizing the FastPass to prosecution model, we are able to dramatically expedite the investigation and filing of criminal cases and reduce the delay between the time of the crime, the Yolo DA Announces the Launch of "FastPass to Prosecution" Combatting Retail Theft through Retailer-Initiated Reporting and Rapid Prosecution arrest and prosecution. In some cases, it will cut the delay down from months to weeks or even days," said Reisig.

Since the launch of FastPass last fall, the DA's office has filed criminal cases against 49 suspects, including dozens of felony cases (60%), with total losses exceeding \$100,000. These 49 individuals combined have over 134 previous theft convictions, and 93% of all the offenders have previous arrests including theft, burglary, robbery, violent assaults, and family violence. First time offenders are not generally part of the FastPass program.

Greg Totten, the CEO of the California District Attorneys Association (CDAA), who also spoke at the Tuesday press event, called the innovative approach "groundbreaking" and committed to promoting it as a promising best practice to other elected prosecutors across California.

Yolo County District Attorney is also one of three prosecutor's offices in the nation, along with the Seattle City Attorney's Office and the King County Prosecutor's Office (WA), to be selected as a pilot site by the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) and the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) for their Vibrant Communities Initiative (VCI). VCI, launched in 2023, is focused on improving collaboration between retailers, prosecutors, police, social service organizations, local policy makers and civic and business groups, and others – to tackle systemic drivers of retail crimes, enhance information sharing, prosecute habitual and violent offenders, and propose meaningful second chance opportunities to reduce recidivism.

"The FastPass to Prosecution project led by DA Jeff Reisig and his team in Yolo County is a perfect example of how retailers and law enforcement can collaborate to make communities safer. Every jurisdiction in the country is struggling with limited resources and limited personnel to address the problem of

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organized retail crime and habitual theft. FastPass can serve as model for prosecutors across the country for how to focus the limited resources of government in partnership with retail asset protection teams to target high-profile, prolific, and violent criminal actors in the community," said Lisa LaBruno, Sr. Executive Vice President of Retail Operations, Retail Industry Leaders Association."

We are dedicated to collaborating with retailers of all types, our law enforcement partners, and our communities in innovative ways to effectively address the retail crimes crisis that is harming our businesses and communities and undermining the sense of security and quality of life for so many. In this mission, we believe FastPass is a gamechanger," stated District Attorney Jeff Reisig.

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