



August 18, 2023

The Honorable Linda Penner  
Chair  
California Board of State and Community Corrections  
2590 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95833

**RE: Support for the Los Angeles Police Department's Organized Retail Theft Prevention Program Application**

Dear Chair Penner,

I write to express my support for the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) application to the California Board of State and Community Corrections' Organized Retail Theft Prevention Program. The proposed \$15.65 million grant would support critical technology and infrastructure improvements and personnel needs to combat organized retail theft, motor vehicle theft, and cargo theft.

Since 2020, property crimes and robberies at businesses have increased in Los Angeles. The City has experienced a 14 percent increase in retail theft over the past year. While motor vehicle thefts have decreased slightly over the last five years, thefts of catalytic converters have increased by 33 percent. Cargo theft, including stolen cargo from railways and railyards, fictitious pickups, and stolen commercial trailers, have significantly impacted Union Pacific and United Parcel Service.

This grant funding would assist LAPD in establishing Project Blue Light (PBL), a comprehensive and collaborative program to install technology that will assist in preventing and solving retail theft, motor vehicle theft, and cargo theft. PBL will help reduce crimes, solve more crimes, and increase cooperation between business owners, communities, and the police. LAPD will partner with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, Los Angeles City Attorney, and Los Angeles County District Attorney's office, as well as the Organized Retail Theft and Cargo Theft Task Forces, to confront these issues. These resources are essential in light of recent organized retail thefts.

For these reasons, I ask for your full and fair consideration of the LAPD's proposal.  
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Bass". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

KAREN BASS  
Mayor