



Mayor Karen K. Goh
City of Bakersfield

April 12, 2023

Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: Item IV. D. Organized Retail Theft Grant Program, Request for Proposals

Dear BSCC Board Members,

On behalf of the City of Bakersfield, I would like to thank you for your efforts in preparing this Request for Proposals (RFP) for the new Organized Retail Theft Grant Program. This program will provide much-needed funding for local law enforcement agencies to address the rising issue of organized retail theft. Based on the latest data provided by Bakersfield Police Department's Crime Analysis Unit, we can report a total of 5,706 organized retail theft cases, 13,120 auto theft cases, and 29 cargo theft cases over the past three years.

However, we would also like to raise awareness of the challenges that our community faces with organized theft from commercial and residential construction sites. Bakersfield is leading the way in addressing California's housing crisis by aggressively supporting new construction. Over the past three years, Bakersfield Police Department has received 171 cases related to theft from residential and commercial construction sites. We have reason to believe that these cases are significantly underreported. While these cases are not at the same volume as organized retail and auto theft, the losses from these cases can be significant.

We respectfully request that the Board amend the draft RFP to incorporate language that supports the expenditure of grant funds for projects that address organized theft from commercial and residential development sites.

Sincerely,

Karen K. Goh
Mayor, City of Bakersfield