



# City of Mission Viejo

Office of the City Council

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*3/24 - uploaded to leg. portal*

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer  
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
1020 N Street, Room 111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1708 (Muratsuchi) Theft.**  
**Notice of SUPPORT (As Amended 3/9/23)**

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer,

The City of Mission Viejo is pleased to support AB 1708 (Muratsuchi). This measure would increase accountability for repeat theft offenders and offer pathways for pre-plea diversion programming. If passed, the bill would send the issue to the voters for approval at the next statewide general election.

This strategy is one of many supported by cities to address crime and its underlying causes. We remain committed to improving California's carceral systems, interrupting and ending cycles of recidivism, and building a community-based system of care that appropriately meets the needs of all community members.

Proposition 47 of 2014 made promises of safe neighborhoods, but the unintended consequences that followed have provided anything but. According to a February 2023 study conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California, a strong majority of Californians worry they or a family member will be a victim of a crime (21% very, 44% somewhat). This is the sentiment being felt by residents of cities throughout the state.

While it is likely that a significant amount of property crime goes unreported, the cost of theft has taken a toll on California's retail industry. The National Retail Federation reported that, in 2021, there was an estimated \$94.5 billion in losses to retail theft nationwide. The Federation's report shows some of the largest losses occurring in California's metropolitan areas. The City of Mission Viejo is no exception and has felt the impact of the rise in property crimes. The city is home to many major retailers, which includes a large shopping mall. Recently Mission Viejo Police Services increased its



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liaison efforts to partner with private businesses and increased enforcement efforts in an attempt to counter the increase in losses, however it certainly comes at a cost to city resources.

Our communities deserve better, and cities are more than ready to find solutions that fix Proposition 47.

The City of Mission Viejo is keenly interested in exploring additional strategies to address the impacts of crime in our communities. This includes resources to improve community safety through prevention and early intervention programming, as well as improved re-entry service provision for our formerly incarcerated community members. While these provisions have historically been the responsibility of state and county departments, cities are interested in increased collaboration to meet these urgent needs.

For these reasons, the City of Mission Viejo requests your support on AB 1708.

Sincerely,



Brian Goodell  
**MAYOR**

cc: Mission Viejo City Council  
The Honorable Al Muratsuchi  
(via email: [assemblymember.muratsuchi@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.muratsuchi@assembly.ca.gov))  
Assembly Member Kate Sanchez (via email: [Anne.Figueroa@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Anne.Figueroa@asm.ca.gov))  
Senator Catherine Blakespear (via email: [Kimberly.Carr@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Carr@sen.ca.gov))  
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