

ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME TASK FORCE

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Statewide Problem

Organized Retail Crime Incidents Around the State

Seattle Police arrest 53 in retail theft operation

- KOMO News, 06/10/2021

Two arrested after nearly two-month shoplifting spree at Spokane stores

- KHQ, 07/27/2020

Auburn Police looking to identify member of organized retail theft crew

- FOX 12, 09/29/2021

Three people face charges of organized retail theft in Woodland Walmart case

- The Columbian, 05/18/2022

Group charged with theft spree at Valley mall

- KIMA, 12/23/2019

Tri-Cities law enforcement arrests man connected to retail theft ring

- YakTriNews.com, 01/21/2022

SCOPE

- 10th State with an Organized Retail Crime Task Force
- Organized Crime, not shoplifting
 - Multiple offenders working together
 - Sophisticated
 - Stealing for the purpose of resale for profit



KEY GOALS

- Increase coordination and collaboration
- Center workers' voices
- Research reforms and best practices
- Increase law enforcement resources to combat the problem

CENTER WORKERS' VOICES

- The impacts of organized retail crime extend beyond the business owner and the economic impact. Impacted workers are on the front line.

INCREASE COMMUNICATION

- First meeting on Thursday, July 7
 - State, federal and local law enforcement
 - Workers' representatives
 - Retailers
 - Small businesses
 - Online marketplaces

INCREASE COMMUNICATION

- Second meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 30
 - Prosecutors
 - Focus on fencing/trafficking
 - Guide for criminal investigations
 - “Best Practices” letter, survey to marketplaces
 - Employee safety

INCREASE COMMUNICATION

- Ongoing Listening Sessions
 - Dozens of retailers, large and small
 - Online marketplaces
 - Local law enforcement
 - Other states' task forces

Reforms and Best Practices

- Guidance for Online Marketplaces to Improve Cooperation and Develop Best Practices
 - Creation of ORC investigation teams
 - Reasonable steps to hinder trafficking of stolen property
 - Data sharing with retailers

Reforms and Best Practices

- Guidance and Resources for Small Businesses
- Guidance for Retailers
- Guidance for Law Enforcement

Resource Challenges

- Complexity of organized retail crime
- Law enforcement staffing issues
- Prosecutor caseloads and need for additional investigation

Increase Resources

- Requesting funding for a Statewide Organized Retail Crime Unit to assist local law enforcement and prosecutors
 - \$1.5 million
 - 2 prosecutors, 4 investigators, 1 data analyst
 - Comparable to other states: CA: \$27M; MI: \$1.75M; AZ: \$1.5M

Thank you.