

Washington State Attorney General's Office

Organized Retail Crime Unit
November 30, 2023

Organized Retail Crime - Defined

Organized Retail Crime involves individuals that steal products in order to resell them for a profit and does not include petty theft, shoplifting or poverty-driven crimes.

Organized Retail Crime Task Force

- ▶ AG Ferguson convened an Organized Retail Crimes Task Force in July 2022.
- ▶ The Task Force includes representatives from state, local, and federal law enforcement, online marketplaces, small and large retailers, retail associations, and the representatives of retail employees.
- ▶ AGO
 - ▶ Policy Unit
 - ▶ Consumer Protection
 - ▶ Criminal Justice
 - ▶ Core Leadership Team

Organized Retail Crime Task Force

- The goal of the Task Force:
 - Improve coordination and collaboration among law enforcement agencies to address these multi-jurisdictional crimes that endanger employees and cause significant economic harm to our state.
- The Task Force focus:
 - Sophisticated, organized crime rings.

New AGO ORC Resources July 2024 – Half in July 2023

2 FTE Prosecutors

4 FTE Investigators

3 Paralegals

1 Data Consultant

Organized Retail Crime Unit Goals

- ▶ Assist with investigations
- ▶ Coordinate investigations across multiple jurisdictions
- ▶ Deploy resources where they are most needed
- ▶ Prosecute cases referred to the office by county prosecutors

Typical Crimes - State Level

- ▶ Theft [Chapter 9A.56 RCW: THEFT AND ROBBERY \(wa.gov\)](#)
- ▶ Organized Retail Theft [RCW 9A.56.350: Organized retail theft. \(wa.gov\)](#)
- ▶ Theft with Special Circumstances [RCW 9A.56.360: Retail theft with special circumstances. \(wa.gov\)](#)
- ▶ Burglary [Chapter 9a.52 RCW: BURGLARY AND TRESPASS \(wa.gov\)](#)
- ▶ Trafficking in Stolen Property [Chapter 9A.82 RCW: CRIMINAL PROFITEERING ACT \(wa.gov\)](#)

Going Forward Goals

▶ Organized Retail Crime Unit

- ▶ Facilitate opportunities for investigators to meet and discuss active cases
- ▶ Provide ongoing assistance with specific investigations
- ▶ Partner with law enforcement to help coordinate resources on a case by case basis
- ▶ Trainings on best practices in prosecution
- ▶ Develop data collection and educate on crime trends

▶ Organized Retail Crime Task Force Meetings

- ▶ Opportunities to uplift work done by the ORC Unit and report on crime trends in Washington
- ▶ Ongoing education on organized retail crime
- ▶ Information and resource sharing
- ▶ Policy and legislation
- ▶ Networking between interested parties

Partners, Referrals & Current Successes

- ▶ Retailers
- ▶ Online Marketplaces
- ▶ Law enforcement
- ▶ County prosecutors
- ▶ Federal partners
- ▶ Charged first criminal case
- ▶ Established task force goals
- ▶ Met with partners
- ▶ Other state task forces
- ▶ Started receiving referrals

Potential Foreseeable Hurdles

- ▶ Law enforcement engagement/funding
- ▶ Serving search warrants
- ▶ Storing evidence for major fencing operations

Contact Information:

ORCU@atg.wa.gov

Policy@atg.wa.gov

Questions?