



City of Riverside, California  
Office of the Mayor  
**PATRICIA LOCK DAWSON**



April 30, 2024

The Honorable Buffy Wicks  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
1021 O St., Suite 8220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 1772 (Ramos) Theft - SUPPORT**

Dear Chairwoman Wicks,

On behalf of the City of Riverside, I write to express our support of AB 1772 (Ramos) which would require the government to keep track of how many people are convicted of theft from retail stores during the COVID-19 pandemic and report it to the Legislature by 2026.

There is an ongoing debate about whether retail theft has increased in California in recent years, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Retailers believe that retail theft has risen significantly, pointing to surveys and internal data that is not publicly available to support their contention. On the other hand, state and national statistics, including data compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, seem to indicate that after a temporary rise in crime during the pandemic, violent crime and property crime are both now trending down.

AB 1772 would require the Department of Justice (DOJ) to compile a very specific data point: the number of misdemeanor theft convictions that occurred during the COVID-19 state of emergency, where the conviction was based on property taken from a retail establishment and report that information to the Legislature. This may provide useful comparative data to the Legislature given there is no existing requirement to compile the data on retail thefts before and after the pandemic to use as a comparison.

For these reasons, the City of Riverside supports AB 1772. If you have questions regarding the City's position, please contact Chekesha Gilliam, Intergovernmental Relations Officer at (951) 826-2419 or [CGilliam@riversideca.gov](mailto:CGilliam@riversideca.gov).

Sincerely,

Patricia Lock Dawson  
Mayor, City of Riverside

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable James Ramos  
City of Riverside Legislative Delegation