



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

May 13, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Senator, 9th District
State Capitol, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 82 (Skinner) Petty Theft
City of Beverly Hills OPPOSITION

Dear Senator Skinner,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you in respectful OPPOSITION to SB 82, your measure to classify the crime of petty theft into two degrees. We are concerned that this bill essentially decriminalizes the violent crime of robbery in the first degree by establishing misdemeanor petty theft level offense where a guilty party could only be required to serve a maximum of six months actual time in county jail.

Existing law distinguishes between these offenses very clearly. Theft including force or fear ought to maintain the greater charge of robbery, based on the increased malice and subsequent damages to victims of these crimes.

An analysis conducted by The Marshall Project in partnership with Los Angeles County found that while California's crime rates remain near historic lows, overall crime spiked in both 2012 and 2015, the years that immediately followed two major statewide measures aimed at public safety reform.

Those increases were reported to be mainly driven by increases in property crimes. Similarly, following the passage of Proposition 47, organized retail crimes throughout the state saw a significant increase. That trend became the impetus behind legislation approved in 2018 to define the crime of "organized retail theft". It also appears to be the reason for excluding from this bill theft involving one of more persons in concert with the intent to sell, exchange or return for

monetary value. Following the passage of Proposition 47, organized retail crimes throughout the state saw a significant increase.

SB 82 also would allow consideration of the immediate or early release of a number of people currently incarcerated in state prison. On March 24, 2021, there were 94,942 individuals incarcerated in state prison and thousands more who were awaiting transfer from county jail to state prison who could be released due to this bill. Because this measure is retroactive, survivors may also be forced to relive the emotional and psychological stresses of these crimes.

For these reasons, we must respectfully OPPOSE SB 82.

Sincerely,



Robert Wunderlich

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc: Members and Staff, Senate Appropriations
The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator, 26th District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Senator, 50th District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange