



WASHINGTON RETAIL
ASSOCIATION

Association of Washington Cities Public Safety, Retail Theft, Organized Retail Crime

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How Big is the Problem?

Retail theft and Organized Retail Crime
Long-term problems with explosive growth

- **54%** of small businesses experienced an increase in theft
- **\$112 billion** lost nationally
- **Almost \$3 billion** in Washington State – over \$300 million in lost state and local taxes

Source: 2023 National Retail Federation Security Survey



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So Why Does This Matter?

- Impacts on employee mental and physical health and safety
- Costly resources are needed to protect employees and customers
- Consumers and business owners are absorbing the costs – higher prices and product shortages
- Retail theft and ORC fund many other crimes



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What is Organized Retail Crime?



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Working Together to Address the Issues

A Multi-Pronged Approach – no “silver bullet”

1. Telling the story – educating the public and elected officials
2. Making it harder to sell stolen goods – National - *Integrity, Notification, and Fairness in Online Retail Marketplaces for Consumers Act (INFORM)* – effective 6/27/23
3. National pilot “Vibrant Communities” initiative – Seattle/King County – Retail Industry Leaders Association
4. Passing legislation and funding to support law enforcement, prosecutors, diversion and treatment programs, and ORC Statewide taskforce

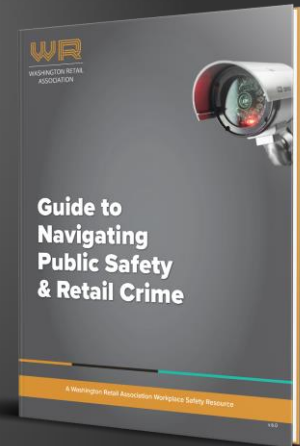


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Working together to address the issues

A Multi-Pronged Approach (cont.)

5. Coordination with State ORC Task Force and the Washington State Organized Retail Crime Association (WAORCA)
6. Supporting national legislation – the Combatting Organized Retail Crime Act – CORCA – S. 140 HR 895
7. Providing resources for small and mid-sized retailers and municipalities – Guide for Public Safety



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Resource Guide

The Guide to Navigating Public Safety and Retail Theft – *Free!* Download

WWW.washingtonretail.org

**Hardcopies can be mailed
Request a speaker**



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Specific efforts at the local and state level:

Initiative – 2113 – Passed!

- Restores safe, trained, and approved vehicle pursuits by law enforcement for property crimes – became effective June 6.



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Specific efforts continued:

State Operating Budget

\$1,000,000

- Combatting organized retail crime – 3 pilot programs – 2 on westside and 1 east of the cascades. Focus on reporting, diversion efforts, coordination between agencies.



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Specific efforts continued:

Grants for small business Theft prevention efforts

- **Small business (50 or fewer employees) could receive grants for bollards, barriers, cameras, fencing, and other theft prevention efforts.**

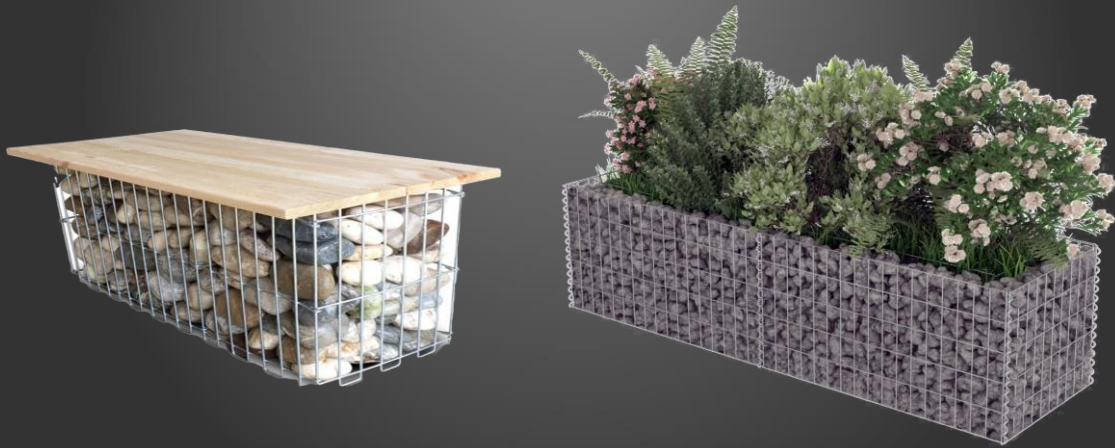


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Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)



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Strategies to protect employees and stores

- Artificial intelligence to help catch the criminals
- Product behind counters and locking product display cases
- Automatic License Plate Recognition - FLOCK
- Locking shopping cartwheels
- Hiring off duty police and security



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Thank You!

Questions?

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