



April 11, 2023

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1708 (Muratsuchi) Theft
Notice of SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Jones-Sawyer,

The City of Lake Elsinore is pleased to support AB 1708 (Muratsuchi). This measure would increase accountability for repeat theft offenders and offer pathways for pre-plea diversion programming. If passed, the bill would send the issue to the voters for approval at the next statewide general election.

This strategy is one of many supported by cities to address crime and its underlying causes. We remain committed to improving California's carceral systems, interrupting and ending cycles of recidivism, and building a community-based system of care that appropriately meets the needs of all community members.

Proposition 47 of 2014 made promises of safe neighborhoods, but the unintended consequences that followed have provided anything but. According to a February 2023 study conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California, a strong majority of Californians worry they or a family member will be a victim of a crime (21% very, 44% somewhat). This is the sentiment being felt by residents of cities throughout the state.

Our communities deserve better, and cities are more than ready to find solutions that fix Proposition 47.

The City of Lake Elsinore is keenly interested in exploring additional strategies to address the impacts of crime in our communities. This includes resources to improve community safety through prevention and early intervention programming, as well as improved re-entry service provision for our formerly incarcerated community members. While these provisions have historically been the responsibility of state and county departments, cities are interested in increased collaboration to meet these urgent needs.

951.674.3124

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For these reasons, the City of Lake Elsinore requests your favorable consideration in support of AB 1708. Please feel free to contact City Manager, Jason Simpson, at (951) 674-3124 x204, if you have any questions. On behalf of the City of Lake Elsinore, we thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Natasha Johnson
Mayor
City of Lake Elsinore

Steve Manos
Mayor Pro Tem
City of Lake Elsinore

Brian Tisdale
Council Member
City of Lake Elsinore

Timothy J. Sheridan
Council Member
City of Lake Elsinore

Bob Magee
Council Member
City of Lake Elsinore

cc: Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi
Senator Kelly Seyarto
Assembly Member Bill Essayli
Regional Public Affairs Manager Erin Sasse
League of California Cities

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