



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Jason Simpson, City Manager

Prepared by: Candice Alvarez, MMC, City Clerk

Date: April 11, 2023

Subject: Letter of Support for AB 1708 (Muratsuchi) Theft

Recommendation

Direct Staff to submit a letter of support for Assembly Bill 1708 (Muratsuchi) from the City Council of the City of Lake Elsinore.

Background

California Proposition 47 was approved by California voters on the November 4, 2014 ballot as an initiated state statute. The initiative reduced the classification of most nonviolent property and drug crimes—including theft and fraud for amounts up to \$950—from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Discussion

AB 1708 would require a person convicted of petty theft or shoplifting, with two or more prior convictions for specified theft-related offenses, to be punished by imprisonment in county jail for up to one year, and authorize a city, county prosecuting authority, or county probation department to create a diversion program for persons who commit repeat theft offenses. Any provisions that amend Proposition 47 would become effective only upon approval by the voters at the next statewide general election.

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. Cities are feeling impacts from crime-related activity in their communities and are looking for solutions to fix Proposition 47. 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). We need to increase accountability for those who continue to create victims throughout our communities.

Mental health and substance use treatment programming are essential to lowering recidivism rates and increasing community wellness. AB 1708 would provide appropriate revisions to Proposition 47 that more holistically address the root causes of crime.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

Attachments

Attachment 1- Bill Text

Attachment 2 - Draft Letter of Support

