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RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING PROPOSED CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 1772 WHICH, IF PASSED, 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.

WHEREAS, the City of Riverside, California (“City”) is a municipal corporation, duly organized under the constitution and laws of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2024, Assemblyman James Ramos (D-San Bernardino) introduced California Assembly Bill 1772 which, if adopted, would require the Department of Justice (DOJ) to report to the Legislature the number of misdemeanor convictions for a crime of theft from a retail establishment during the Governor’s declared COVID-19 state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, there is an ongoing debate about whether retail theft has increased in California in recent years, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, retailers believe that retail theft has risen significantly, pointing to surveys and internal data that is not publicly available to support their contention; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, the City supports California Assembly Bill 1772 which may help shed light on what the scope of the issue is in regard to retail theft, and just how much the losses were during the pandemic.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Riverside, California, as follows:

Section 1: That California Assembly Bill 1772 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.

Section 2: The City of Riverside actively supports California Assembly Bill 1772.

