

Title	Ventura County Sheriff's Office	07/07/2023
	by Brian Slominski in Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program	id. 41333860
	Brian.slominski@ventura.org	

Original Submission 07/07/2023

The Organized Retail Theft (ORT) Prevention Grant Program Application is divided into five (5) sections as identified below: Background Information Contact Information Program Information Proposal Narrative and Budget Mandatory Attachments Each section has a series of questions requiring a response. Applicants will be prompted to provide written text, select options from a drop down menu, select options from a multiple choice menu, or upload attachments. Questions with a red asterisk require responses. Applicants will not be able to submit the application until all questions with a red asterisk have been completed. Applicants may reference the ORT Prevention Grant Program Proposal Instruction Packet for background information, key dates, rating factors, and other important information to aid in the completion of the ORT Prevention Grant Program Application. The ORT Prevention Grant Proposal Instruction Packet is available on the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) website. NOTE: Applicants may start and stop their application but must select "Save Draft" at the bottom of the application before existing.

SECTION I - BACKGROUND INFORMATION This section requests information about the applicant's name, location, mailing address, and tax identification number.

Name of Applicant (i.e., Police Department, Sheriff's Department, or Probation Department) **Ventura County Sheriff's Office**

Multi-Agency Partnerships Information (if applicable) **Applicants may apply for funding as part of a multi-agency partnership (two [2] or more agencies). The agencies and jurisdictions comprising the collaborative application are not required to be contiguous. One (1) Lead Public Agency must be identified on behalf of the partnership.**

Multi-Agency Partnerships **No: This is not a Multi-Agency Partnership Application**

Lead Public Agency Information **All applicants are required to designate a Lead Public Agency (LPA) to serve as the coordinator for all grant activities. The LPA is a governmental agency with local authority within the applicant's city or county. The applicant may choose to fill the role of LPA itself or it may designate a department, agency, or office under its jurisdiction to serve as the LPA. The role of the LPA is to coordinate with other local government agency partners and non-governmental organizations to ensure successful implementation of the grant program. The LPA is responsible for data collection and management, invoices, meeting coordination (virtual and/or in-person), and will serve as the primary point of contact with the BSCC.**

Lead Public Agency **Ventura County Sheriff's Office**

Applicant's Physical Address **800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura
CA
93009
US**

Applicant's Mailing Address (if different than the physical address) **n/a**

Mailing Address for Payment **800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura
CA
93009
US**

Tax Identification Number **95-6000944**

SECTION II - CONTACT INFORMATION **This section requests contact information for the individuals identified as the Project Director, Financial Officer, Day-to-Day Project Contact, Day-to-Day Fiscal Contact, and the Authorized Signature.**

Project Director **Brian
Slominski**

Project Director's Title with Agency/Department/Organization **Captain**

Project Director's Physical Address **3701 East Las Posas Road
Camarillo
CA
93010
US**

Project Director's Email Address **brian.slominski@ventura.org**

Project Director's
Phone Number **+18059478189**

Financial Officer **Junelyn
Pacheco**

Financial Officer's
Title with
Agency/Department/Organization **Accounting Manager**

Financial Officer's
Physical Address **800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura
CA
93009
US**

Financial Officer's
Email Address **junelyn.pacheco@ventura.org**

Financial Officer's
Phone Number **+18056489223**

Day-To-Day Program
Contact **Ron
Chips**

Day-To-Day Program
Contact's Title **Captain/ Program Manager**

Day-To-Day Program
Contact's Physical
Address **3701 East Las Posas Road
Camarillo
CA
93010
US**

Day-To-Day Program
Contact's Email
Address **ron.chips@ventura.org**

Day-To-Day Program
Contact's Phone
Number **+18053838707**

Day-To-Day Fiscal
Contact **Kelley
Tovias**

Day-To-Day Fiscal
Contact's Title **Administrative Assistant**

Day-To-Day Fiscal
Contact's Physical
Address **3701 East Las Posas Road
Camarillo
CA
93009
US**

Day-To-Day Fiscal Contact's Email Address	kelley.tovias@ventura.org
Day-To-Day Fiscal Contact's Phone Number	+18053838700
Name of Authorized Officer	Jim Fryhoff
Authorized Officer's Title	Sheriff
Authorized Officer's Physical Address	800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura CA 93009 US
Authorized Officer's Email Address	james.fryhoff@ventura.org
Authorized Officer's Phone Number	+18056542381
Authorized Officer Assurances	checked
SECTION III - PROGRAM INFORMATION	This section requests a Project Title, Proposal Summary description, Program Purpose Area(s) selection, and Scope Funding Category selection.
Project Title	Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force
Proposal Summary	Lead by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force Project will formalize a large scope, coordinated effort involving all law enforcement agencies in Ventura County to prevent and combat \$10 million/yr. loss from organized retail theft, vehicle/parts theft, and partner with the Port of Hueneme to address cargo theft. Every reported case will be assigned to a member of the task force investigative team, representing all agencies, supported by a crime analyst and investigation technology (e.g., ALPRs, CCIT). To deter organized retail theft, uniformed officers will conduct overt surveillance at shopping and auto malls.

PROGRAM PURPOSE AREAS	<p>Applicants must propose activities, strategies, or programs that address the Program Purpose Areas (PPAs) as defined on pages 5 - 8 in the ORT Prevention Grant Proposal Instruction Packet. A minimum of one (1) PPA must be selected; applicants are not required to address all three (3) PPAs. All proposed activities, strategies, or programs must have a link to the ORT Prevention Grant Program as described in the authorizing legislation and the ORT Prevention Grant Proposal Instruction Packet.</p>
Program Purpose Areas (PPAs):	<p>PPA 1: Organized Retail Theft PPA 2: Motor Vehicle or Motor Vehicle Accessory Theft PPA 3: Cargo Theft</p>
Funding Category Information	<p>Applicants may apply for funding in a Medium Scope OR Large Scope Category. The maximum an applicant may apply for is up to \$6,125,000 in the Medium Scope category OR up to \$15,650,000 in the Large Scope category. Applicants may apply for any dollar amount up to and including the maximum grant amount identified in each category. Multi-agency partnerships (determined as Medium Scope OR Large Scope) may apply for up to the maximum grant award in that category, multiplied by the number of partnering eligible applicants. For Example: Four (4) eligible applicants in the Medium Scope category may submit one (1) application for up to \$24,500,000 o \$6,125,000 (Medium Scope Max) x 4 (# of Agencies) = \$24,500,000 Two (2) eligible applicants in the Large Scope category may submit one (1) application for up to \$31,300,000 o \$15,650,000 (Large Scope Max x 2 (# of Agencies) = \$31,300,000 Please reference pages 10-12 in the ORT Prevention Grant Proposal Instruction Packet for additional information.</p>
Funding Category	<p>Large Scope (Up to \$15,650,000)</p>
SECTION IV - PROPOSAL NARRATIVE AND BUDGET	<p>This section requests responses to the Rating Factors identified in the the ORT Prevention Grant Program Application Instruction Packet.</p>

The Proposal Narrative must address the Project Need, Project Description, Project Organizational Capacity and Coordination, and Project Evaluation and Monitoring Rating Factors as described in the ORT Prevention Grant Instruction Packet (refer to pages 20-24). A separate narrative response is required for each Rating Factor as described below: The Project Need narrative may not may not exceed 6,711 total characters (includes punctuation, numbers, spacing and any text). In Microsoft Word, this is approximately three (3) pages in Arial 12-point font with one-inch margins on all four (4) sides and at 1.5-line spacing. The Project Description narrative may not may not exceed 11,185 total characters (includes punctuation, numbers, spacing and any text). In Microsoft Word, this is approximately five (5) pages in Arial 12-point font with one-inch margins on all four (4) sides and at 1.5-line spacing. The Project Organizational Capacity and Coordination narrative may not may not exceed 4,474 total characters (includes punctuation, numbers, spacing and any text). In Microsoft Word, this is approximately two (2) pages in Arial 12-point font with one-inch margins on all four (4) sides and at 1.5-line spacing. The Project Evaluation and Monitoring narrative may not may not exceed 4,474 total characters (includes punctuation, numbers, spacing and any text). In Microsoft Word, this is approximately two (2) pages in Arial 12-point font with one-inch margins on all four (4) sides and at 1.5-line spacing. A character counter is automatically enabled that shows the number of characters used and the remaining number of characters before the limit for each response is met. If the character limit is exceeded, a red prompt will appear with the message "You have exceeded the character limit". Applicants will be prohibited from submitting the ORT Prevention Grant Program Application until they comply with the character limit requirements. NOTE: It is up to the applicant to determine how to use the total word limit in addressing each section, however as a guide, the percent of total point value for each section is provided in the ORT Prevention Grant Proposal Instruction Packet (refer to page 15).

Project Need

1.1. Needs to be Addressed: The proposed Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force project will formalize a coordinated, large scope effort involving all law enforcement (LE) agencies in Ventura County (VC) to prevent and combat organized retail theft (ORT), vehicle and vehicle parts theft, and build a partnership with port authorities to identify or combat cargo theft. The project, led by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office (VSCO), Could solve the hundreds of cases each year, saving millions of dollars saved in Ventura County through preventive/interventive efforts. The number of ORTs and vehicle/parts thefts continue to rise. In January 2023 Sheriff Fryhoff noted that "ORT, burglary crews, and catalytic converter thefts continue to be the main causes of property crimes in VC (Ref 1). VC 2020-2022 ORT crime statistics: ♦From 2020 to 2022, ORTs increased in VCSO's jurisdictions: 1) Fillmore (+130.4%), Camarillo (+43.1%), Thousand Oaks (+22.7%), and Moorpark (+19.0%). ♦ From 2020 to 2022, the Oxnard Police Department (PD) reported a 255.56% increase in ORTs. ♦Simi Valley

PD reported a 267% increase in ORTs from 2021 to 2022. ♦The Ventura, Santa Paula and Port Hueneme PDs are understaffed/underfunded and do not track ORTs . From 2020 to 2022, all VCSO jurisdictions increased in vehicle/parts theft: Fillmore (+135.3%), Camarillo (+7.0%), Thousand Oaks (+6.0%), and Moorpark (+167.0%). From 2021 to 2022, catalytic converter theft increased by 144% in VCSO jurisdictions. In the City of Ventura, 229 catalytic converters were stolen in 9 months; Oxnard reported 128 converters stolen in 2022, compared to 36 in 2021 (+255.6%) (Ref 2). ORT and vehicle/parts thefts are grossly underreported by retailers. Retailers perceive that the cost of time involved in the reporting/court process fails to yield a high enough return on investment (Ref 3). Retailers need training about the benefits of ORT reporting. Despite VC having a deep water port, cargo theft is rarely reported to LE, because the port facilitates its own security/internal reporting systems. Time delays in recognition of a theft are common due to the high volume of cargo handled.

1.2. Conditions that Contribute to Needs: Service Gaps: ♦Tracking Crimes: Many o VC LE agencies do not track ORT or vehicle/parts theft separately from shop lifting, limiting the ability to track ORT trends. ♦Staffing: No county LE agencies designate ORT or vehicle/parts theft detectives. ♦VC lacks formal coordinated efforts to address target crimes: 1) If LE agencies designated ORT investigators, VCSO could form a task force to develop cooperative protocols, data sharing, personnel sharing to manage cross-jurisdictional cases. 2) VC LE lack funding to coordinate a large-scale presence at shopping/auto malls, even though overt interventions are one of the best ways to address ORT (Ref 4). ♦Multi-County Coordination: VC LE must coordinate with LE in other counties, because 80% of ORT criminals arrested for crimes in VC, live outside of VC. VCORTTF will target ORT crews, prosecute VC crimes, and disseminate intelligence developed to assist regional prosecutions. VC is technologically updated to fight ORT: The sophistication of ORT and vehicle/parts crimes has increased exponentially. ORT crews cross county/state boundaries and victimize communities after apprehension and release from custody. To assist investigations, detectives/crime analysts must share real time relevant information efficiently (Ref 5). ♦VCSO is experienced in Cellular Communications Interception Technology (CCIT), but its device hardware is old and software no longer supported. Sophisticated criminals use smart phones to communicate, share intelligence, coordinate ORT activities. Using CCIT to track/locate ORT suspects via cell numbers rather than in-person contacts helps prevent any bias-based investigations and provides actionable intelligence. ♦VC has pole cameras and a mix of older ALPRs installed/managed by various LE agencies. Significant gaps exist in camera locations, (e.g., major use on/off ramps). VCSO purchased electric signage, which have not been used to deter ORT. The grant-funded SST will coordinate sign deployment/use.

Geographic Location/Accessibility: VC, located in coastal Southern CA encompasses 1,843 square miles and is the 12th most populated county in CA with 832,605 residents (Ref 6).. VC is bordered by Kern County to the north, Santa Barbara County to the west, Los Angeles

County to the east, and the Pacific Ocean to the south. VC is a primarily suburban county with urban, rural, industrial, and agricultural areas. There are ten (10) incorporated cities located in VC – Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura. ♦The 101 Highway Corridor runs through L.A. and Ventura Counties to the Bay Area. VC’s four largest shopping malls are located on the 101 highway in Thousand Oaks, Camarillo, Oxnard, and Ventura (Ref 7). VC must enhance its capacity to coordinate ORT investigations with counties located on the 101 corridor. On 11/27/2020 two men stole \$39,000 worth of perfume from stores in Oxnard and Camarillo. They pled guilty to five counts of felony grand theft. One man was under investigation for 19 ORTs (loss of \$15,000) in L.A., San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego counties. ♦Port of Hueneme: VC’s Port of Hueneme is the only commercial deep-water port between Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay. The Port is a full-service auto port (338,000 annually) that consistently ranks among the top ten U.S. ports for automobiles(Ref 8). The Port connects to the Union Pacific Railroad, Class I freight carrier on the CA coast mainline, providing an important intermodal link throughout CA and to North America, Canada, and Mexico.

1.3. Relevant Local Data: Increased LE staffing levels are associated with increased crime reporting (Ref 9). It is critical to coordinate efforts across VC jurisdictions and with other counties, because 80% of ORT suspects in 2022 lived outside of VC. Cross-jurisdictional cases that occurred within a 12-month time period can be combined into one case to increase the charge to a felony. On 03/25/2022, eight (8) people were arrested in VC related to an ORT ring that struck 11 CA counties, including VC. Crews stole hundreds of thousands of dollars’ worth of merchandise. An estimated \$200,000 worth of stolen merchandise was recovered at their arrest by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) (Ref 10). This one case is repeated countywide daily. The financial impact on the residents, business, and government on VC exceeds 10 million dollars/year due to these targeted crimes.

Project Description

2.1. The proposed activities will address needs by decreasing the number of ORT and vehicle/parts theft committed in VC and increasing the number of investigations/arrests.

2.1.1. The activities/timeframes coordinate with the Work Plan (Attachment B).

After a three-month start-up, Project Service Delivery - 01/01/2024 – 12/31/2026.

From 01/01/2024-03/31/2024, task force launch activities include: 1) initiate monthly task force meetings, 2) finalize data points to track/evaluate activities, 3) finalize baseline data through the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), 4) develop a system for officers’ overt surveillance assignments, 5) develop request/reimbursement protocols for LE partners, 6) finalize data sharing protocols, 7) finalize the external evaluator contract, 8) initiate contact with port authorities, and 9) conduct analysis of target crimes to create hot spot maps.

From 04/01/2024 – 12/31/2026, the project partners will be a fully-functioning investigative team and will implement the following

activities:

Coordination Activities: Task Force: The VCSO will lead a countywide task force with every LE agency, city, and unincorporated area in VC - to maximize cooperation in the prevention, analysis, tracking, investigation, and arrest of ORT, vehicle/parts, and cargo theft suspects. The project will be assigned to VCSO's Special Investigations Bureau, which successfully supports other task forces. Each LE agency will designate individuals with detective experience and investigative training to participate in the ORT investigative unit. Uniformed personnel from all agencies will help maintain high visibility, employ community-oriented policing tactics, and respond to crimes as needed. See the attached signed letters of commitment: The five (5) VC city police departments (PDs) conduct ORT investigations, but lack funding to pursue all cases. The CHP will support vehicle/parts theft cases through the VC Auto Theft Task Force (VenCATT) and share data, analytics, and surveillance information (funded through another source). The VC District Attorney's Office – Bureau of Investigation will investigate ORT cases. The VC Probation Department–Investigative Services gathers information for sentencing recommendations for the court and monitors individuals after conviction. College/University PDs: The PDs of CA State University, Channel Islands (CSUCI) and three community colleges within the Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD) will allocate officers on overtime for overt surveillance/prevention. An NGO, Idea Engineering, will conduct a public education campaign. Local retailers will receive training to mitigate/report ORT. See attached letters of impact signed by retailers.

Prevention Activities: ORT-prevention activities: 1) deploy uniformed officers on overtime from LE agencies to increase overt surveillance in shopping/auto malls; 2) deploy overt ORT-related flashing light message boards (e.g., Increased Law Enforcement Presence) at malls; 3) contract with Idea Engineering to conduct a compelling, high-quality, evidence-based, public advertisement campaign (e.g., social media, public service announcements, task force materials).; and 4) continue the VCSO "Etch and Catch" catalytic converter anti-theft deterrence program.

Investigation Activities include: 1) assign every reported ORT/vehicle/cargo case to a VCORTTF detective to track, investigate, and apprehend suspects. Each detective will be allocated a vehicle. 2) Fund a crime analyst who will: a) use sophisticated strategies to sort through extensive LE data for leads using open source information, intelligence reports, and signal intelligence (e.g., human intelligence, link charts, timelines, geospatial, crime/contact reports, cellular data sets, and criminal associate networks); b) import field interview cards, citations, and traffic collision information, and call-for-service data from all LE agency partners and input the data into an analytics platform that houses crime, arrest, and booking information; c) create real time dashboards (for LE and the public for transparency) and reports. The platform will: a) support detectives network diagrams of criminal organizations; b) be mobile compliant to allow in-field access for real-time information sharing with analysts, detectives, dispatchers, tactical personnel, etc. Field detectives will

search officer safety/risk assessment information in real time, enter contacts, and distribute photos/videos. 3) Deploy undercover officers in hot spots. 4) Place 100 ALPRs to fill gaps in existing system; a mix of all LE agency-owned ALPRs countywide. VCSO will pursue ALPRs placement authorization on state routes, freeway offramp, and ramps on major ingress/egress points. The ALPR platform enables LE to use custom ORT hot lists to receive alerts when stolen vehicles or suspect-associated vehicles enter their proximity. No costs related to existing ALPRs will be funded through proposed funding to avoid supplantation. 5) Reinstate cellular communication interception technology (CCIT). Existing CCIT devices are outdated/not supported. CCIT enables investigators to track/locate ORT suspects through cell phone numbers, which prevents bias. 6) Receive training in evidence-based communication techniques not yet implemented in VC.

2.1.2. Target Project Areas: The VCORTTF will investigate reported crimes related to all three project areas. ORT is a widespread, increasing crime in VC, particularly in large shopping malls along the US Highway 101 corridor and in cities near the L.A. County border. **Vehicle/Parts Theft:** The crime analyst will develop heat maps for catalytic converter thefts. The ORT task force will work closely with VenCATT without supplanting resources. **Cargo Theft:** Detectives will investigate assigned cargo theft cases, track patterns, and develop relationships with port authority/port security and local rail leadership to explore strategies to increase reports of cargo theft.

2.1.3. As a result of the VCORTTF, VCSO anticipates an increase in the number of multi-jurisdictional criminal crews identified and arrested. The task force, case management processes, and analytics will improve detective/analyst communication to identify criminal associates more efficiently. The activities will help LE agencies to forge a partnership with the Port of Hueneme leadership and security team to explore cooperative and/or simultaneous investigations related to cargo theft.

2.1.4. Coordination with other entities was discussed in 2.1.1.

2.2. Goals, Objectives, and Impact

2.2.1. The project's goals/objectives/impact address identified needs/intent of the grant program. ♦To address the increase in target crimes, VCSO set Goal 1-Reduce instances of ORT and vehicle/parts theft by 50% by the end of award year three (3) and the following objectives: 1) launch an ORT task force with all VC LE agencies; 2) coordinate at least 75 high-visibility uniform patrols per year in major retail shopping malls; and 3) train a minimum of 100 retailers in theft mitigation/reporting. ♦To address the need for the staffing/funding required for VC LE agencies to investigate organized thefts, VCSO set Goal 2-Investigate all reported cases of ORT, vehicle/parts theft, and cargo theft and the following objectives: 1) assign each case to a detective; 2) collect data (e.g., suspects, days/times, actions, modus operandi) and identify criminal patterns/vulnerable business types/geographical areas to identify organizations/criminal players/crews; and 3) build relationships with the port authorities to partner on cargo theft investigations. ♦To address the need for a coordinated system for data gathering, sharing, and analyzing required for VC LE agencies to successfully pursue ORT, VCSO set

Goal 3-Develop crime trends, actionable intelligence, and information to share with all county/municipal LE entities in VC and retailers and the following objectives: 1) implement information tracking, storage, and cataloging protocols for project-related theft; and 2) share the gathered information statewide through a public education campaign.

◆To address the need for updated investigative technologies required to successfully apprehend ORT crews, VCSO set Goal 4-Use project technology to identify and track ORT crews and the following objectives: 1) install 100 ALPRs, 2) receive training/equipment related to chosen evidence-based communication techniques, and 3) share information gathered through CCIT with task force partners.

2.2.2.The completed Project Work Plan (Appendix B) aligns with program intent.

2.3. The rationale for activities includes the following: Task Force: The VCSO has a long, successful history of effective countywide coordination and collaboration with Federal state and local LE agencies through task forces. The proposed task force will provide the support needed for LE personnel to participate in multi-county investigations/prosecutions, which can help to pursue felony charges and streamline the prosecution to one trial. Dedicating an ORT-focused crime analyst and purchasing state-of-the-art data management/investigative technology will focus task force efforts to the most productive locations and most likely suspects to investigate with specific/updatable information in real time. Highly effective, evidence-based technology (ALPRs, CCIT) streamlines the search for suspects (Ref 11).

2.4. VCSO's existing and extensive surveillance technology policies are attached. The VCSO will: a) serve as the main storage and contractor for the technology used to identify and investigate target suspects; b) oversee the deployment, use, and compliance with applicable surveillance technology use policies and procedures, which includes state law; c) facilitate information technology selection to secure servers and storage technology and ensure compliance with purging requirements; d) provide the bulk of the county LE's information technology and security software to block from tampering and loss of data. The county uses several vendors to employ state-of-the-art security and prevention tactics from malware and digital attacks. As a mid-sized LE agency, the VCSO closely monitors legislation that governs the use/storage of digital evidence. The agency subscribes to Lexipol, which frequently updates policies/training on new legislation, so VCSO updates policies as needed.

2.5. Existing policies to limit racial bias for each VCORTTF LE agency are attached. The VCSO and every LE agency participating in the task force have policies that strictly prohibit investigation and enforcement on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identify, economic status, age, cultural group, disability, or affiliation with any non-criminal group. Administration, supervisors, and members of the organization are all held to a high no-tolerance standard of no racial bias and all personnel receive training to ensure knowledge of agency policies. Each of the VC LE agencies in the proposed project are intolerant of any bias and act swiftly to correct any actual or perceived issues with training or discipline.

3.1. VCSO has administered a wide range of federal, state, and local grants and contracts that include: grants with the U.S. Department of Justice and BSCC and contracts with five (5) local cities for LE services. VCSO ensures appropriate due diligence on all grants, contracts, and sub-contracts that are administered by the agency. VCSO is in compliance with all grant and contract requirements and has never been late or delinquent in the provision of required data, information, or reports (progress or financial) to funders. The Project Administrator (Kelley Tovias) is a long-term VCSO project administrator. She has worked with the Special Investigations Bureau since 2007 and is proficient in all tasks related to project and grant management.

3.2. The VCSO will partner with nine (9) LE agencies. Each agency will: 1) designate an executive-level staff member to the task force's steering committee; 2) assign appropriate staff members (e.g., detectives, investigators, etc.) to the task force for preventive and investigative activities; and 3) participate in a multi-agency formal investigative unit to investigate cross-jurisdictional ORT. The VCSO will contract with Idea Engineering (a local NGO) to prepare task force materials (e.g., posters, flyers, brochures, etc.); create a retail theft prevention advertisement campaign; and develop an ORT prevention and safety training for retailers. The NGO has 20 years of experience using research and best practices, combined with broad experience in branding, positioning, and strategic communications, to develop relevant and effective campaigns on critical issues facing communities (e.g., impaired driving, fentanyl use prevention, etc.). Please see the attached letters of commitment.

3.3. The VCSO and the partners have a long history of working closely and collaboratively on a task force (e.g., Justice Assistance Grant, etc.). This history provides the partners with the expertise, experience, and strong working relationships needed to establish the VCORT Task Force; facilitate task force meetings; develop task force policies, procedures, and protocols; execute "task force participation" contracts between the VCSO and the partners (signed letters of commitment have already been obtained); assign detectives and other LE personnel to task force; purchase and deploy project-related equipment; and provide theft prevention training to retail establishments during the first three (3) months of the project start-up period. As a result, the VCORT Task Force will begin ORT investigations on January 1, 2024, and will be a formal investigative unit no later than April 1, 2024.

3.4. The Project Administrator, in close collaboration with the Project Director, Captain Brian Slominski (Special Investigations Bureau), will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the project. This management team will meet with the steering committee on a quarterly basis to ensure that the project is continually monitored, assessed, and evaluated; and that adjustments to project strategies needed for project improvement and effectiveness are implemented in a timely manner. The full participation and voting rights of each steering committee member will be ensured by: 1) respecting the insight, expertise, and experience of each member; 2) providing

ample opportunity for each member to provide input that is valued and considered; and 3) using a "vote by show of hands" to make decisions.

3.5. The VCSO and partners are committed to the sustainability of the VCORT Task Force – particularly the strategies developed and implemented. While many project-related activities (e.g., deployment of undercover detective vehicles, installation of “automated license plate reader” cameras, deployment of overt surveillance camera trailers, etc.) are short-term in nature, the partners hope to continue to operate the VCORT Task Force and implement the strategies developed by the task force (e.g., collaborative intelligence gathering and sharing, multi-agency “sting” operations, ongoing theft prevention training for retail establishments, etc.) after the grant period has ended. If, as anticipated, the VCORT Task Force is successful, participating law enforcement agencies are committed to review budget constraints that have previously prevented this level of collaboration with the goal of ongoing collaboration and continuous use of developed strategies to address organized retail theft throughout VC.

Project Evaluation
and Monitoring

4.1. **Qualified internal staff/external project evaluator.** The VCSO Project Administrator will facilitate data collection and reporting; assisted by the crime analyst and an external evaluator, EVALCORP. The VCSO has worked extensively with EVALCORP, which is well-experienced in BSCC grant reporting requirements. Monitoring activities will include: 1) Start-Up – design a central data gathering system that is connected to program data collection points and systems, and create data gathering protocols/instruments that can facilitate gathering information about the efficacy of activities; 2) Implementation - develop request/reimbursement protocols for LE partners; finalize data sharing protocols with LE partners; and 3) Service Delivery – track use of varied strategies (e.g., signage, ALPRs, CCIT) and outcome of each case; the number of touches/contacts through the public education campaign; and retailer education/training events and related impact surveys.

4.2. **Process/outcome measures are quantifiable and align with proposed objectives listed in the work plan.** Data collection methods and tools for the process component of the evaluation will include: project records and data (law enforcement data and case reports, task force participation logs, data/forms; systematic project document reviews; and meetings with project staff). EVALCORP will run monthly data checks for quarterly reports (e.g., number of assigned cases, technology deployment, overt surveillances conducted, public education messages distributed, etc.); investigations conducted by LE; and collaborative projects with the CHP task force. **Outcome Measures:** The task force and case management processes, tasks, and decisions will be documented along with reports on the number of cases reported, investigations conducted, crews/criminals identified, prosecutions initiated and outcomes, and retailers trained, as well as perceived collaboration quality as a task force, the extent to which the task force activities are carried out as planned/intended, challenges experienced, and lessons learned.

4.3. The plan for monitoring the project will ensure the project components are implemented as intended. Data collection tools will be assessed and recommendations made for best practices, so that the most usable data will be available to complete required performance measurements. Each law enforcement partner has agreed to share project related data in accordance with the new laws about data sharing. VCSO is currently finalizing new data sharing protocols in adherence with the new legislation. The Project Evaluator will ensure data collection/evaluation, including baseline data, is completed as scheduled. VCSO and the PD partners are scheduled to transition data tracking protocols to NIBRS by the end of 2023 or early 2024. NIBRS enables the proposed project personnel to track the different types of theft within the scope of the project. EVALCORP will utilize required BSCC tools, as well as NIBRS data uploaded by all LE agencies to gather needed data (e.g., crime and arrest data; identified trends; social media posts for the public information campaign; court data (e.g., case outcomes); qualitative data from specific cases, including linkage to additional cases/crews/individuals; and anecdotal input from LE, retailers, and the public for entering into data sharing agreements, if necessary. The evaluator will review the organized theft data from partners to ensure data collection processes are working as planned. Parties Responsible for Collecting and Reporting Data: VCSO will be responsible for data collection and will ensure that all VCORT task force members upload their data to a common VCORT task force database, following the VCORT task force protocols developed for chosen data points.

4.5. The research design will allow for an assessment of whether the strategies implemented achieve the intended outcomes. If awarded, EVALCORP will document progress toward the required BSCC performance measures and planned measures. Data will be used to provide a feedback loop for continuous improvement and periodic assessment: 1) ORT and vehicle/part theft activity data will be collected monthly for quarterly reports assessing progress goals and objectives, 2) project effectiveness and concerns will be evaluated monthly at task force meetings to identify needed project adjustments, and 3) assessment data will be collected quarterly for annual reports.

Budget Instructions

Applicants are required to submit a Proposal Budget and Budget Narrative (Budget Attachment). Upon submission the Budget Attachment will become Section 5: Budget (Budget Tables & Narrative) making up part of the official proposal. The Budget Attachment must be filled out completely and accurately. Applicants are solely responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information entered in the Proposal Budget and Budget Narrative. The Proposal Budget must cover the entire grant period. For additional guidance related to grant budgets, refer to the BSCC Grant Administration Guide. The Budget Attachment is provided as a stand-alone document on the BSCC website.

Budget Attachment

[Project_Budget.xlsx](#)

SECTION V -
ATTACHMENTS

This section list the attachments that are required at the time of submission, unless otherwise noted. Project Work Plan (Appendix B) - Mandatory Grantee Assurance for Non-Governmental Organizations (Appendix D) - Mandatory Local Impact Letter(s) (Appendix E) - Mandatory Letter(s) of Commitment (Appendix F) - If Applicable Policies Limiting Racial Bias - Refer to page 9 of the Proposal Instruction Packet - Mandatory Policies on Surveillance Technology - Refer to page 9 of the Proposal Instruction Packet - If Applicable Certification of Compliance with BSCC Policies on Debarment, Fraud, Theft, and Embezzlement (Appendix G) - Mandatory Governing Board Resolution (Appendix H) - Optional

Project Work Plan (Appendix B)

[Project-Work-Plan-ORT.pdf](#)

Grantee Assurance for Non-Governmental Organizations (Appendix D)

[ORT_Appendix_D.pdf](#)

Local Impact Letter(s) (Appendix E)

[Ventura_County_Organized_Retail_Theft_Task_Force_-_Letters_of_Impact.pdf](#)

Letter(s) of Commitment, (Appendix F)

[Ventura_County_Organized_Retail_Theft_Task_Force_-_Letters_of_Commitment.pdf](#)

Policies Limiting Racial Bias

[Policies_Limiting_Racial_Bias.pdf](#)

Policies on Surveillance Technology

[Policies_on_Surveillance_Technology.pdf](#)

Certification of Compliance with BSCC Policies on Debarment, Fraud, Theft, and Embezzlement (Appendix G)

[ORT_Appendix_G.pdf](#)

OPTIONAL: Governing Board Resolution (Appendix H)

[ORT_Appendix_H-Resolution_DRAFT.docx](#)

OPTIONAL:
Bibliography

Bibliographical References in Order of Use

1. Nixle, (Feb 22, 2023). Sheriff Jim Fryhoff Releases 2022 Crime Statistics. <https://local.nixle.com/alert/9938551/>).
2. Childs, J. (Sep. 7, 2021). Catalytic converter theft in Ventura County: What you need to know. Ventura County Star.
3. Lowe, C. (May 30, 2023). The problem of organized retail crime: overstated or misunderstood? Loss Prevention Magazine.
4. Holland, B. (Jan. 14, 2022). Region Sees Uptick in Retail Crime. Pacific Coast Business Time. <https://www.pacbiztimes.com/2022/01/14/region-sees-uptick-in-retail-crime/>).
5. Webb, D. (Jul 11, 2022). 4 ways to combat organized retail crime through technology. Police1.com. <https://www.police1.com/police-products/traffic-enforcement/license-plate-readers/articles/4-ways-to-combat-organized-retail-crime-through-technology-Na4atBrrQljGB6Bc/>.
6. United States Census – American Community Survey. (2022).
7. Holland, B. (Jan. 18, 2022). Guilty pleas in perfume thefts as Ventura County authorities take action on retail crime. Pacific Coast Business Times.
8. The Port of Hueneme. (Dec 5, 2022). Historic \$10.4 Million to Electrify Auto Terminal. <https://www.portofhueneme.org/cmaq-shoreside-plug-in-grant-12-05-2022/>.
9. IBID #3
10. Orozco, L. (Mar 25, 2022). Eight arrested in connection with retail theft ring operating in Ventura County. KCLU.
11. IBID #5

CONFIDENTIALITY
NOTICE:

All documents submitted as a part of the Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program proposal are public documents and may be subject to a request pursuant to the California Public Records Act. The BSCC cannot ensure the confidentiality of any information submitted in or with this proposal. (Gov. Code, § 6250 et seq.)

Appendix B: Project Work Plan

Applicants must complete a Project Work Plan. This Project Work Plan identifies measurable goals and objectives, process and outcome measures, activities and services, responsible parties for those activities and services, data sources and estimated timelines. Completed plans should (1) identify the project’s top goals and objectives; (2) identify how the goal(s) will be achieved in terms of the activities, responsible staff/partners, and start and end dates, process and outcome measures; and (3) provide goals and objectives with a clear relationship to the need and intent of the grant. As this grant term is for three (3) years, the Project Work Plan must attempt to identify activities/services and estimate timelines for the entire grant term. A minimum of one goal and corresponding objectives, process measures, etc. must be identified.

Applicants must use the Project Work Plan provided below. You will be prompted to upload this document to the BSCC-Submittable Application.

(1) Goal:	Reduce instances of organized retail theft (ORT) and vehicle parts theft by 50% by the end of award year three (3).		
Objectives (A., B., etc.)	<p>A. Create a task force to coordinate investigations and prevention activities with every law enforcement agency in Ventura County.</p> <p>B. Coordinate a minimum of 75 high-visibility uniformed patrol officers in a minimum of four major retail shopping centers and vulnerable businesses during peak shopping days.</p> <p>C. Educate/train a minimum of 100 retailers in Ventura County through materials designed by Idea Engineering (NGO) to encourage theft mitigation and reporting.</p>		
Process Measures and Outcome Measures:	<p>Process Measures: Task force meeting minutes, law enforcement reimbursement records, activity logs (training), purchase orders.</p> <p>Outcome Measures: Number of ORT incidents reported quarterly, comparison between the number of ORT incidents when uniformed officers are and are not present, retailer training impact survey.</p>		
Project activities that support the identified goal and objectives:	Responsible staff/partners	Timeline	
		Start Date	End Date

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fund an investigator from each LE partner and equip each with a LE vehicle and necessary equipment, as measured by agency reimbursement records. 2. Use overt surveillance and electronic signage to dissuade crime in shopping and auto malls, as measured by signage use logs. 3. Use of pre-existing and new surveillance technology coupled with grant-funded technology to capture evidence of incidents and overtly deter organized retail, vehicle/parts, and cargo theft, as measured by technology use records. 4. Mobilize law enforcement officers on overtime to major shopping areas along the US Highway 101 Corridor, as measured by agency reimbursement records. 	Project Administrator	January 1, 2024	December 31, 2026
<p>List data and sources to be used to measure outcomes: 1) signed letters of commitment from law enforcement agencies, 2) monthly overt surveillance logs, 3) quarterly impact reports on mall-related services, and 4) roster of mobilized law enforcement and financial record of reimbursement for personnel time for each law enforcement partner.</p>			

(2) Goal:	Investigate all reported cases of organized retail theft (PPA1), vehicle/parts theft (PPA2), and cargo theft (PPA3).
Objectives (A., B., etc.)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Instigate a case management system for each reported crime (PPA 1, 2, and 3) through the assignment of each case to one of the project-funded LE detectives assigned from each LE agency to serve as a case manager. B. Collect data regarding suspects, days/times, actions, and modus operandi (MO) of organized retail theft and vehicle parts theft and develop criminal patterns and identify vulnerable business types and geographical areas.

	<p>C. Use a wide range of investigators and techniques to share information among all county and municipal law enforcement entities in Ventura County to identify organizations and criminal players related to ORT and vehicle/parts theft.</p> <p>D. Investigate any reported cargo theft.</p>		
<p>Process Measures and Outcome Measures:</p>	<p>Process Measures: Case assignment spread sheet, ORT case and suspect reports, log of investigative techniques used, list of cases investigated aggregated by type (e.g., cargo).</p> <p>Outcomes Measures: Quarterly reports on suspect profiles, suspect contacts, apprehensions, case outcomes.</p>		
<p>Project activities that support the identified goal and objectives:</p>	<p>Responsible staff/partners</p>	<p>Timeline</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete an analysis of all retail theft, auto theft, and auto parts theft to establish patterns and suspect information. 2. The proposed VCISO Crime Analyst will develop heat maps that will guide surveillance and detectives to the areas most prone to these thefts. This information will be shared with all task force members. 3. Work closely with the Ventura County CHP Auto Theft Task Force (VenCatt) without supplanting resources. (PPA2). 4. Reach out to the Port of Hueneme security team to build a partnership to increase cargo theft reporting. 	<p>Project Administrator, VCISO Crime Analyst, Sheriff Sergeant</p>	<p>Start Date No later than April 1, 2024</p>	<p>End Date December 31, 2024</p>
<p>List data and sources to be used to measure outcomes: 1) quarterly reports on criminal patterns, vulnerable businesses and geographical areas, including heat maps; 2) quarterly reports on data collected on suspects, days/times, actions, modus operandi, etc.; 3) quarterly reports on organizations and criminals suspected related to ORT, vehicle/parts, and cargo theft; and 4) quarterly reports/spreadsheets that document investigations and techniques used across all law enforcement partnerships.</p>			

(3) Goal:	Develop crime trends, actionable intelligence, and information to share with all county and municipal law enforcement entities in Ventura County as well as with retailers, as appropriate.		
Objectives (A., B., etc.)	<p>A. Implement a program to track, store, and catalog information gathered related to organized retail theft, vehicle/parts theft, and cargo theft.</p> <p>B. Share the gathered information related to organized retail theft, vehicle parts, and cargo theft throughout the state by partnering with retail associations to provide education to retailers.</p>		
Process Measures and Outcome Measures:	<p>Process Measures: Crime analyst data tracking, storage, and information cataloging system, log of crime information sharing.</p> <p>Outcome Measures: number of suspects identified, investigated, contacted, apprehended as a result of actionable intelligence, qualitative input from Ventura County investigators as well as regional and state investigators.</p>		
Project activities that support the identified goal and objectives:	Responsible staff/partners	Timeline	
		Start Date	End Date
<p>1. Assign a crime analyst to the project.</p> <p>2. Develop a system to track, store, and catalog information gathered related to organized retail theft and vehicle parts theft (e.g., dashboards for law enforcement, retailers, and the public).</p> <p>3. Develop a system to track statewide communication about gathered information related to organized retail theft and vehicle parts theft.</p>	Project Administrator, VCSO Crime Analyst, Sheriff Sergeant	January 1, 2024	December 31, 2026
List data and sources to be used to measure outcomes: 1) quarterly report analyst/case assignments; 2) quarterly report of information gathered related to ORT, vehicle/parts, and cargo theft; 3) quarterly report of statewide sharing of information gathered related to ORT, vehicle/parts, and cargo theft.			

(4) Goal:	Use technology funding to identify and track organized retail theft crews.
------------------	--

Objectives (A., B., etc.)	<p>A. Identify vehicles used by organized retail theft crews and track movements through automated license plate readers (ALPRs) or trackers.</p> <p>B. Identify and implement evidence-based communication techniques and devices to help identify and track organized retail theft crews.</p> <p>C. Use Cellular Communication Interception Technology (CCIT) to pinpoint locations of thefts and locations of stolen property.</p>		
Process Measures and Outcome Measures:	<p>Process Measures: Log of ALPRs use (e.g., hot list vehicle alerts), logs of CCIT (pings and pens), logs of training in and use of additional communication techniques.</p> <p>Outcome Measures: Quarterly reports of technology use and impact on the identification, tracking, pursuit, apprehension, arrest, etc. of suspects.</p>		
Project activities that support the identified goal and objectives:	Responsible staff/partners	Timeline	
		Start Date	End Date
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchase and install 100 ALPRs as per hot spot maps, gaps in the existing ALPRs mix, and at ingress and egress locations in high theft areas, which will include freeway on-ramps and off-ramps. We have budgeted for 100 ALPR locations. 2. Receive needed training and equipment related to selected evidence-based communication techniques. 3. Share information gathered through CCIT with appropriate partners and with the District Attorney's Office. 	Project Administrator, Sheriff Sergeant and VCISO Service Technician	No later than April 1, 2024	December 31, 2026
List data and sources to be used to measure outcomes: 1) purchase record for ALPR, installment pattern, and quarterly report of use; 2) record of communication techniques used; and 3) quarterly reports on use and outcome of CCIT technology use on ORT, vehicle/parts, and cargo case investigations.			

TOTAL	\$1,147,000.00
--------------	-----------------------

2b. Services and Supplies Narrative:

Automated License Plate Reader Camera Services: This item represents the costs associated with the lease, permitting, placement, operation, and maintenance of one hundred (100) automated license plate reader cameras that will be deployed throughout Ventura County. The use of this technology is a well-documented deterrent to retail theft/organized retail theft. A commercial vendor (e.g., Flock, Vigilant, etc.) that has designed a comprehensive system that captures, stores, and analyzes license plate data in high-crime areas will work with the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force. All collected and stored data will comply with state guidelines and acceptable practices for ALPR data retention.

Pens and Pings: This item represents the "pens and pings" that will be used in organized retail theft investigations.

3a. Professional Services

Description of Professional Service(s)	Calculation for Expenditure	Total
Detectives (Police Sergeants)	(\$255,000/year x 1 FTE x 3 years = \$677,400) - 76% employee benefits	\$677,400.00
Detectives (Senior Police Officers)	(\$225,800/year x 2 FTE x 3 years = \$1,354,800) - 72% employee benefits	\$1,354,800.00
District Attorney Investigator	(\$275,000/year x 1 FTE x 3 years = \$825,000) - 83% employee benefits	\$825,000.00
Detective Supervisor Overtime	(\$110/hour x 1,180 hours/year x 3 years = \$389,400)	\$389,400.00
Detective Overtime	(\$95/hour x 2,810 hours/year x 3 years = \$800,800)	\$800,800.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
TOTAL		\$4,047,400.00

3b. Professional Services Narrative

Detectives (Police Sergeants): This item represents the salary and the employee benefits for the Detectives (Police Sergeants) who will provide required supervision for the investigative team. The Detectives (Police Sergeants) will lead, coordinate, and supervise operations and investigations and will be responsible for the risk assessment and legal review of each investigation to ensure successful cases are generated. The Detectives (Police Sergeants) will also be responsible for ensuring that cases and operations comply with anti-discrimination and biased-based policing policies and practices.

Detectives (Senior Police Officers): This item represents the salaries and the employee benefits for the Detectives (Senior Police Officers) that will be assigned to grant-related activities and investigations. The Detectives (Senior Police Officers) will review and evaluate all qualifying crimes and criminal activity for investigation, as well as focus on organized criminal enterprises that operate in Ventura County and are likely committing similar crimes throughout the region and/or the state of California.

District Attorney Investigator: This item represents the salary and the employee benefits for the full-time District Attorney Investigator (Ventura County District Attorney's Office) who will review and evaluate all qualifying crimes and criminal activity for investigation, as well as focus on organized criminal enterprises that operate in Ventura County and are likely committing similar crimes throughout the region and/or the state of California.

Detective Supervisor Overtime: This item represents overtime pay for additional detective supervisors (municipal police departments) that will be assigned to project-related activities and investigations.

Detective Overtime: This item represents overtime pay for additional detectives (municipal police departments) that will be assigned to project-related activities and investigations.

4a. Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Subcontracts

Description of Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Subcontracts	Calculation for Expense	Total
Idea Engineering Subcontract	(\$200,000/comprehensive project x 1 comprehensive project = \$200,000)	\$200,000.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
TOTALS		\$200,000.00

4b. Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Subcontracts Narrative

Idea Engineering Subcontract: This item represents the subcontract with Idea Engineering. Idea Engineering (a local non-governmental organization) will prepare task force materials (e.g., posters, flyers, brochures, etc.); create a "retail theft prevention" advertisement campaign; and develop an "organized retail theft" prevention and safety training for retail establishments.

5a. Data Collection and Evaluation

Description of Data Collection and Evaluation	Calculation for Expense	Total
EVALCORP Subcontract	(\$450,000/evaluation of comprehensive project x 1 evaluation of comprehensive project = \$450,000)	\$450,000.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00

		\$0.00
		\$0.00
	TOTALS	\$450,000.00

5b. Data Collection and Evaluation Narrative

EVALCORP Subcontract: This item represents the subcontract with EVALCORP for project evaluation services. EVALCORP will serve as the external evaluator for the proposed project and will provide a wide range of data collection, tabulation, management, analysis, and reporting services associated with the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force and task force activities. EVALCORP will develop and implement the local evaluation plan, as well as complete all local evaluation reports.

6a. Equipment/Fixed Assets

Description of Equipment/Fixed Assets	Calculation for Expense	Total
Undercover Vehicles	(\$55,000/vehicle x 9 vehicles = \$495,000)	\$495,000.00
Cellular Communications Interception Technology Device	(\$850,000/device x 1 device = \$850,000)	\$850,000.00
Overt Surveillance Camera Trailers	(\$50,000/trailer x 10 trailers = \$500,000)	\$500,000.00
Covert Surveillance Equipment	(\$50,000/year x 3 years = \$150,000)	\$150,000.00
Detective Work Stations	(\$20,000/work station x 10 work stations = \$200,000)	\$200,000.00
Detective Equipment	(\$2,122.95/ detective x 20 detectives = \$42,459)	\$42,459.00
SAS Program Module for CAU	(\$650,000/module x 1 module = \$650,000)	\$650,000.00
		\$0.00
	TOTALS	\$2,887,459.00

6b. Equipment/Fixed Assets Narrative

Undercover Vehicles: This item represents the nine (9) vehicles that will be "law enforcement ready" and will be used by detectives for task force investigations.

Cellular Communications Interception Technology Device: This item represents the Cellular Communications Interception Technology (CCIT) device that will be used in task force investigations. The device will be operated in compliance with all state and local laws and requirements; and will only be operated by individuals who have completed CCIT training.

Overt Surveillance Camera Trailers: This item represents the ten (10) overt surveillance camera trailers that will be outfitted with surveillance cameras and deployed throughout Ventura County to assist in retail theft/organized retail theft deterrence activities.

Covert Surveillance Equipment: This item represents covert surveillance equipment (e.g., audio surveillance equipment, GPS tracking equipment, vehicle tracking equipment, etc.) that will be used during task force investigations.

Detective Work Stations: This item represents the work stations - desks, chairs, furnishings, computers, etc. - for participating detectives.

Detective Equipment: This item represents the equipment for participating detectives.

SAS Program Module for CAU: This item represents the SAS program module for criminal justice data integration and analytics that will be used by the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force for retail theft/organized retail theft investigations.

7a. Financial Audit

Description	Calculation for Expense	Total
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
	TOTAL	\$0.00

7b. Financial Audit) Narrative:

There are no financial audit costs associated with the proposed project. The County of Ventura conducts a single audit of all agencies, programs, and grants each year, including all VCSO programs and grants. This audit is in compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations. This audit is conducted regardless of any grant funding, therefore, any costs associated with this audit are included in indirect costs.

8a. Other (Travel, Training, etc.)

Description	Calculation for Expense	Total
Undercover Vehicle Operation and Maintenance	(\$16,000/vehicle x 9 vehicles = \$144,000)	\$144,000.00
Training	(\$7,500/task force member/year x 10 task force members x 3 years = \$225,000)	\$225,000.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00
		\$0.00

		\$0.00
	TOTAL	\$369,000.00

8b. Other (Travel, Training, etc.) Narrative:

Undercover Vehicle Operation and Maintenance: This item represents the costs associated with the ongoing operation of the nine (9) undercover detective vehicles that will be used for covert surveillance and other task force activities (e.g., fuel, routine maintenance, etc.).

Training: This item represents ongoing training for task force members (e.g., covert surveillance strategies, non-covert surveillance strategies, information sharing, etc.).

9a. Indirect Costs

For this grant program, indirect costs may be charged using only one of the two options below:	Grant Funds	Total
1) Indirect costs not to exceed 10 percent (10%) of the total grant award. Applicable if the organization does not have a federally approved indirect cost rate.	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000
<i>If using Option 1) grant funds allocated to Indirect Costs may not exceed:</i>	\$0	
2) Indirect costs not to exceed 20 percent (20%) of the total grant award. Applicable if the organization has a federally approved indirect cost rate. Amount claimed may not exceed the organization's federally approved indirect cost rate.	\$0	\$0
<i>If using Option 2) grant funds allocated to Indirect Costs may not exceed:</i>	\$0	
<i>Please see instructions tab for additional information regarding Indirect Costs. If the amount exceeds the maximum allowed and/or turns red, please adjust it to not exceed the line-item noted.</i>	TOTAL	\$1,400,000

9b. Indirect Costs Narrative:

This item represents the indirect costs (e.g., audit, accounting, insurance, etc.) associated with the proposed project.



Ventura County **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Jim Fryhoff - Sheriff | John Reilly - Undersheriff
800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009 | 805.654.2385 | VenturaSheriff.org



June 1, 2023

California Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Venture Oaks Way
Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95833

Re: Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force

To whom it may concern,

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office (lead public agency), in collaboration with other local law enforcement agencies from throughout Ventura County, will establish the **Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force** to create a countywide network of law enforcement personnel dedicated to a reduction in all forms of organized retail theft (e.g., store merchandise theft, automobile theft, catalytic converter theft, etc.) in Ventura County. The task force will: provide vital theft-related outreach, education, and prevention services for local retail establishments; conduct increased law enforcement patrols, covert and non-covert surveillance, and related activities at or near local retail establishments; share intelligence leading to increased investigations, arrests, and prosecutions of organized retail theft perpetrators; and collaborate with other task forces (e.g., California Highway Patrol Organized Retail Crime Task Force, etc.).


It is anticipated that the activities of the **Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force** will directly impact malls, outlet centers, and large stores from throughout Ventura County. The anticipated impacts to these retail establishments include:

- Improved "theft deterrent" signage posted at establishments
- Expanded and enhanced "theft deterrent" training provided at establishments
- Increased high-visibility law enforcement patrols at or near establishments
- Increased covert and non-covert surveillance at or near establishments
- Increased theft reports provided by establishments
- Decreased organized retail theft at establishments

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office will work closely and collaboratively with **Camarillo Premium Outlets/Simon Property Group** to minimize any unintentional adverse impacts. For example, the task force will develop a streamlined approach to reporting theft for retailers that will

result in decreased time allocated to this task for retailers. All needed training and technical assistance associated with this streamlined approach will be provided to **Camarillo Premium Outlets/Simon Property Group** at no cost to the impacted retailers and at times convenient to the impacted retailers.

Sincerely,



Sheriff James Fryhoff
Ventura County Sheriff's Office



John Best
General Manager



Ventura County SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jim Fryhoff - Sheriff | John Reilly - Undersheriff
800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009 | 805.654.2385 | VenturaSheriff.org



June 1, 2023

California Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Venture Oaks Way
Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95833

Re: **Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force**

To whom it may concern,

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office (lead public agency), in collaboration with other local law enforcement agencies from throughout Ventura County, will establish the **Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force** to create a countywide network of law enforcement personnel dedicated to a reduction in all forms of organized retail theft (e.g., store merchandise theft, automobile theft, catalytic converter theft, etc.) in Ventura County. The task force will: provide vital theft-related outreach, education, and prevention services for local retail establishments; conduct increased law enforcement patrols, covert and non-covert surveillance, and related activities at or near local retail establishments; share intelligence leading to increased investigations, arrests, and prosecutions of organized retail theft perpetrators; and collaborate with other task forces (e.g., California Highway Patrol Organized Retail Crime Task Force, etc.).

It is anticipated that the activities of the **Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force** will directly impact malls, outlet centers, and large stores from throughout Ventura County. The anticipated impacts to these retail establishments include:

- Improved "theft deterrent" signage posted at establishments
- Expanded and enhanced "theft deterrent" training provided at establishments
- Increased high-visibility law enforcement patrols at or near establishments
- Increased covert and non-covert surveillance at or near establishments
- Increased theft reports provided by establishments
- Decreased organized retail theft at establishments

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office will work closely and collaboratively with Steve Thomas BMW Inc. to minimize any unintentional adverse impacts. For example, the task force will develop a streamlined approach to reporting theft for retailers that will result in decreased time allocated to

this task for retailers. All needed training and technical assistance associated with this streamlined approach will be provided to Steve Thomas BMW Inc. at no cost to the impacted retailers and at times convenient to the impacted retailers.

Sincerely,



Sheriff James Fryhoff
Ventura County Sheriff's Office



Steve Thomas
Owner



Ventura County **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Jim Fryhoff - Sheriff | John Reilly - Undersheriff
800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009 | 805.654.2385 | VenturaSheriff.org



150
YEARS
OF SERVICE

June 1, 2023

California Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Venture Oaks Way
Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95833

Re: Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force

To whom it may concern,

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office (lead public agency), in collaboration with other local law enforcement agencies from throughout Ventura County, will establish the **Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force** to create a countywide network of law enforcement personnel dedicated to a reduction in all forms of organized retail theft (e.g., store merchandise theft, automobile theft, catalytic converter theft, etc.) in Ventura County. The task force will: provide vital theft-related outreach, education, and prevention services for local retail establishments; conduct increased law enforcement patrols, covert and non-covert surveillance, and related activities at or near local retail establishments; share intelligence leading to increased investigations, arrests, and prosecutions of organized retail theft perpetrators; and collaborate with other task forces (e.g., California Highway Patrol Organized Retail Crime Task Force, etc.).


It is anticipated that the activities of the **Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force** will directly impact malls, outlet centers, and large stores from throughout Ventura County. The anticipated impacts to these retail establishments include:

- Improved "theft deterrent" signage posted at establishments
- Expanded and enhanced "theft deterrent" training provided at establishments
- Increased high-visibility law enforcement patrols at or near establishments
- Increased covert and non-covert surveillance at or near establishments
- Increased theft reports provided by establishments
- Decreased organized retail theft at establishments


The Ventura County Sheriff's Office will work closely and collaboratively with **Ventura Transit System** to minimize any unintentional adverse impacts. For example, the task force will develop a streamlined approach to reporting theft for retailers that will result in decreased time allocated to

this task for retailers. All needed training and technical assistance associated with this streamlined approach will be provided to **Ventura Transit System** at no cost to the impacted retailers and at times convenient to the impacted retailers.

Sincerely,



Sheriff James Fryhoff
Ventura County Sheriff's Office



Masood Babaeian
CEO



Ventura County **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Jim Fryhoff - Sheriff | John Reilly - Undersheriff
800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009 | 805.654.2385 | VenturaSheriff.org



June 1, 2023

California Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Venture Oaks Way
Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95833

Re: Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force

To whom it may concern,

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office (lead public agency), in collaboration with other local law enforcement agencies from throughout Ventura County, will establish the **Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force** to create a countywide network of law enforcement personnel dedicated to a reduction in all forms of organized retail theft (e.g., store merchandise theft, automobile theft, catalytic converter theft, etc.) in Ventura County. The task force will: provide vital theft-related outreach, education, and prevention services for local retail establishments; conduct increased law enforcement patrols, covert and non-covert surveillance, and related activities at or near local retail establishments; share intelligence leading to increased investigations, arrests, and prosecutions of organized retail theft perpetrators; and collaborate with other task forces (e.g., California Highway Patrol Organized Retail Crime Task Force, etc.).

It is anticipated that the activities of the **Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force** will directly impact malls, outlet centers, and large stores from throughout Ventura County. The anticipated impacts to these retail establishments include:

- Improved "theft deterrent" signage posted at establishments
- Expanded and enhanced "theft deterrent" training provided at establishments
- Increased high-visibility law enforcement patrols at or near establishments
- Increased covert and non-covert surveillance at or near establishments
- Increased theft reports provided by establishments
- Decreased organized retail theft at establishments


The Ventura County Sheriff's Office will work closely and collaboratively with **The Oaks Shopping Center** to minimize any unintentional adverse impacts. For example, the task force will develop a streamlined approach to reporting theft for retailers that will result in decreased time

allocated to this task for retailers. All needed training and technical assistance associated with this streamlined approach will be provided to **The Oaks Shopping Center** at no cost to the impacted retailers and at times convenient to the impacted retailers.

Sincerely,



Sheriff James Fryhoff
Ventura County Sheriff's Office



Lucia Minaya
General Manager



Ventura County **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Jim Fryhoff - Sheriff | John Reilly - Undersheriff
800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009 | 805.654.2385 | VenturaSheriff.org



June 1, 2023

California Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Venture Oaks Way
Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95833

Re: Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force

To whom it may concern,

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office (lead public agency), in collaboration with other local law enforcement agencies from throughout Ventura County, will establish the **Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force** to create a countywide network of law enforcement personnel dedicated to a reduction in all forms of organized retail theft (e.g., store merchandise theft, automobile theft, catalytic converter theft, etc.) in Ventura County. The task force will: provide vital theft-related outreach, education, and prevention services for local retail establishments; conduct increased law enforcement patrols, covert and non-covert surveillance, and related activities at or near local retail establishments; share intelligence leading to increased investigations, arrests, and prosecutions of organized retail theft perpetrators; and collaborate with other task forces (e.g., California Highway Patrol Organized Retail Crime Task Force, etc.).


It is anticipated that the activities of the **Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force** will directly impact malls, outlet centers, and large stores from throughout Ventura County. The anticipated impacts to these retail establishments include:

- Improved "theft deterrent" signage posted at establishments
- Expanded and enhanced "theft deterrent" training provided at establishments
- Increased high-visibility law enforcement patrols at or near establishments
- Increased covert and non-covert surveillance at or near establishments
- Increased theft reports provided by establishments
- Decreased organized retail theft at establishments

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office will work closely and collaboratively with **The Target Corporation** to minimize any unintentional adverse impacts. For example, the task force will develop a streamlined approach to reporting theft for retailers that will result in decreased time

allocated to this task for retailers. All needed training and technical assistance associated with this streamlined approach will be provided to **The Target Corporation** at no cost to the impacted retailers and at times convenient to the impacted retailers.

Sincerely,



Sheriff James Fryhoff
Ventura County Sheriff's Office



Ashley Leonard
Assets Protection Director



Ventura County **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



150
YEARS
OF SERVICE

Jim Fryhoff - Sheriff | **John Reilly** - Undersheriff

800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009 | 805.654.2385 |
VenturaSheriff.org

May 31, 2023

Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Ventura Oaks Way #200
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: Support of Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office is committed to supporting the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force in partnership with every law enforcement agency in Ventura County along with the District Attorney's Office and Ventura County Probation Agency. Through a collaborative effort, we will aggressively investigate these thefts that plague our communities and focus on disrupting theft groups that conspire to steal, distribute, and sell stolen goods. These theft groups often work regionally or move throughout the state to avoid detection, arrest, and prosecution. By working together, we can ensure that every area of the county will benefit from the work of the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office will support the task force through dedicated personnel, combined agency theft deterrent operations, and sharing of intelligence. Currently, the collaborative efforts of multiple agencies within Ventura County work closely together as part of numerous drug, violent crime, and community supportive task forces. These preexisting relationships coupled with common goals and values will make this partnership successful as well. Along with our personnel dedicated to the task force, other resources and investigators will be made available to ensure the program is successful. Through our collaborative efforts focused on Ventura County, we anticipate lower crime throughout the county and regionally as these theft crews are identified and prosecuted.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office has policies preventing Bias Based Policing and a practice that every member of the community is treated fairly, professionally, and with respect. We are committed to abiding by policies and laws limiting the use of surveillance technology for official investigative purposes and to prevent crime. Any additional technology purchased through the grant will be used solely to support the goals of the task force and investigate crime.

Sincerely,

Jim Fryhoff
Sheriff



VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Protect, serve, and problem-solve with our community

DARIN SCHINDLER
Chief of Police

DAVID DICKEY
Assistant Chief

May 31, 2023

Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Ventura Oaks Way #200
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: Support of Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force

The Ventura Police Department is committed to supporting the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force in partnership with every law enforcement agency in Ventura County along with the District Attorney's Office and Ventura County Probation Agency. Through a collaborative effort, we will aggressively investigate these thefts that plague our communities and focus on disrupting theft groups that conspire to steal, distribute, and sell stolen goods. These theft groups often work regionally or move throughout the state to avoid detection, arrest, and prosecution. By working together, we can ensure that every area of the county will benefit from the work of the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force.

The Ventura Police Department will support the task force through dedicated personnel, combined agency theft deterrent operations, and sharing of intelligence. Currently, the collaborative efforts of multiple agencies within Ventura County work closely together as part of numerous drug, violent crime, and community supportive task forces. These preexisting relationships coupled with common goals and values will make this partnership successful as well. Along with our personnel dedicated to the task force, other resources and investigators will be made available to ensure the program is successful. Through our collaborative efforts focused on Ventura County, we anticipate lower crime throughout the county and regionally as these theft crews are identified and prosecuted.

The Ventura Police Department has policies preventing Bias Based Policing and a practice that every member of the community is treated fairly, professionally, and with respect. We are committed to abiding by policies and laws limiting the use of surveillance technology for official investigative purposes and to prevent crime. Any additional technology purchased through the grant will be used solely to support the goals of the task force and investigate crime.

Sincerely,

Darin Schindler
Chief of Police



OXNARD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Protecting Our Community with Exceptional Service

CHIEF OF POLICE

Jason Benites

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

Denise S. Morehouse

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

Christopher Williams

251 SOUTH C STREET, OXNARD, CALIFORNIA 93030-5789 * (805) 385-7600 * <http://oxnardpd.org>

May 31, 2023

Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Ventura Oaks Way #200
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: Support of Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force

The Oxnard Police Department is committed to supporting the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force in partnership with every law enforcement agency in Ventura County along with the District Attorney's Office and Ventura County Probation Agency. Through a collaborative effort, we will aggressively investigate these thefts that plague our communities and focus on disrupting theft groups that conspire to steal, distribute, and sell stolen goods. These theft groups often work regionally or move throughout the state to avoid detection, arrest, and prosecution. By working together, we can ensure that every area of the county will benefit from the work of the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force.

The Oxnard Police Department will support the task force through combined agency theft deterrent operations, and sharing of intelligence. Currently, the collaborative efforts of multiple agencies within Ventura County work closely together as part of numerous drug, violent crime, and community supportive task forces. These preexisting relationships coupled with common goals and values will make this partnership successful as well. Resources and investigators will be made available to ensure the program is successful. Through our collaborative efforts focused on Ventura County, we anticipate lower crime throughout the county and regionally as these theft crews are identified and prosecuted.

The Oxnard Police Department has policies preventing Bias Based Policing and a practice that every member of the community is treated fairly, professionally, and with respect. We are committed to abiding by policies and laws limiting the use of surveillance technology for official investigative purposes and to prevent crime. Any additional technology purchased through the grant will be used solely to support the goals of the task force and investigate crime.

Sincerely,

Jason Benites
Chief of Police



CITY OF PORT HUENEME

May 31, 2023

Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Ventura Oaks Way #200
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: Support of Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force

The Port Hueneme Police Department is committed to supporting the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force in partnership with every law enforcement agency in Ventura County along with the District Attorney's Office and Ventura County Probation Agency. Through a collaborative effort, we will aggressively investigate these thefts that plague our communities and focus on disrupting theft groups that conspire to steal, distribute, and sell stolen goods. These theft groups often work regionally or move throughout the state to avoid detection, arrest, and prosecution. By working together, we can ensure that every area of the county will benefit from the work of the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force.

The Port Hueneme Police Department will support the task force through dedicated personnel, combined agency theft deterrent operations, and sharing of intelligence. Currently, the collaborative efforts of multiple agencies within Ventura County work closely together as part of numerous drug, violent crime, and community supportive task forces. These preexisting relationships coupled with common goals and values will make this partnership successful as well. Along with our personnel dedicated to the task force, other resources and investigators will be made available to ensure the program is successful. Through our collaborative efforts focused on Ventura County, we anticipate lower crime throughout the county and regionally as these theft crews are identified and prosecuted.

The Port Hueneme Police Department has policies preventing Bias Based Policing and a practice that every member of the community is treated fairly, professionally, and with respect. We are committed to abiding by policies and laws limiting the use of surveillance technology for official investigative purposes and to prevent crime. Any additional technology purchased through the grant will be used solely to support the goals of the task force and investigate crime.

Sincerely,

Robert Albertson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Albertson".

Chief of Police (Interim)



SANTA PAULA
POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Committed to Community Service"
DON AGUILAR | CHIEF OF POLICE

May 31, 2023

Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Ventura Oaks Way #200
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: Support of Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force

The Santa Paula Police Department is committed to supporting the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force in partnership with every law enforcement agency in Ventura County along with the District Attorney's Office and Ventura County Probation Agency. Through a collaborative effort, we will aggressively investigate these thefts that plague our communities and focus on disrupting theft groups that conspire to steal, distribute, and sell stolen goods. These theft groups often work regionally or move throughout the state to avoid detection, arrest, and prosecution. By working together, we can ensure that every area of the county will benefit from the work of the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force.

The Santa Paula Police Department will support the task force through dedicated personnel, combined agency theft deterrent operations, and sharing of intelligence. Currently, the collaborative efforts of multiple agencies within Ventura County work closely together as part of numerous drug, violent crime, and community supportive task forces. These preexisting relationships coupled with common goals and values will make this partnership successful as well. Along with our personnel dedicated to the task force, other resources and investigators will be made available to ensure the program is successful. Through our collaborative efforts focused on Ventura County, we anticipate lower crime throughout the county and regionally as these theft crews are identified and prosecuted.

The Santa Paula Police Department has policies preventing Bias Based Policing and a practice that every member of the community is treated fairly, professionally, and with respect. We are committed to abiding by policies and laws limiting the use of surveillance technology for official investigative purposes and to prevent crime. Any additional technology purchased through the grant will be used solely to support the goals of the task force and investigate crime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Don Aguilar".

Don Aguilar
Chief Of Police



CITY OF SIMI VALLEY

Home of The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Charles Steven Shorts, Chief of Police

June 13, 2023

Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Ventura Oaks Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: Letter of Intent in Support of the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force

The Simi Valley Police Department is committed to supporting the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force in partnership with every law enforcement agency in Ventura County along with the District Attorney's Office and Ventura County Probation Agency. Through a collaborative effort, we will aggressively investigate the thefts that plague our communities and focus on disrupting theft groups that conspire to steal, distribute, and sell stolen goods. These theft groups often work regionally or move throughout the state to avoid detection, arrest, and prosecution. By working together, we can ensure that every area of the county will benefit from the work of the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force.

The Simi Valley Police Department will support the task force through dedicated personnel, combined agency theft deterrent operations, and sharing of intelligence. Currently, the collaborative efforts of multiple agencies within Ventura County work closely together as part of numerous drug, violent crime, and community supportive task forces. These preexisting relationships coupled with common goals and values will make this partnership successful as well. Along with our personnel dedicated to the task force, other resources and investigators will be made available to ensure the program is successful. Through our collaborative efforts focused on Ventura County, we anticipate lower crime throughout the county and regionally, as these theft crews are identified and prosecuted.

The Simi Valley Police Department has policies preventing Bias Based Policing, and a practice that every member of the community is treated fairly, professionally, and with respect. We are committed to abiding by policies and laws limiting the use of surveillance technology for official investigative purposes and to prevent crime. Any additional technology purchased through the grant will be used solely to support the goals of the task force and investigate crime.

Sincerely,

Charles Steven Shorts
Chief of Police



Channel Islands

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

DIVISION OF BUSINESS & FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

University Police Department



May 31, 2023

Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Ventura Oaks Way #200
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: Support of Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force

The California State University Channel Islands Police Department is committed to supporting the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force in partnership with every law enforcement agency in Ventura County along with the District Attorney's Office and Ventura County Probation Agency. Through a collaborative effort, we will aggressively investigate these thefts that plague our communities and focus on disrupting theft groups that conspire to steal, distribute, and sell stolen goods. These theft groups often work regionally or move throughout the state to avoid detection, arrest, and prosecution. By working together, we can ensure that every area of the county will benefit from the work of the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force.

The California State University Channel Islands Police Department will support the task force through dedicated personnel, combined agency theft deterrent operations, and sharing of intelligence. Currently, the collaborative efforts of multiple agencies within Ventura County work closely together as part of numerous drug, violent crime, and community supportive task forces. These preexisting relationships coupled with common goals and values will make this partnership successful as well. Along with our personnel dedicated to the task force, other resources and investigators will be made available to ensure the program is successful. Through our collaborative efforts focused on Ventura County, we anticipate lower crime throughout the county and regionally as these theft crews are identified and prosecuted.

The California State University Channel Islands Police Department has policies preventing Bias Based Policing and a practice that every member of the community is treated fairly, professionally, and with respect. We are committed to abiding by policies and laws limiting the use of surveillance technology for official investigative purposes and to prevent crime. Any additional technology purchased through the grant will be used solely to support the goals of the task force and investigate crime.

Sincerely,

Drake Massey
Chief Of Police

One University Drive, Camarillo, California 93012-8599 Tel: (805) 437-8444 Fax: (805) 437-8440 www.csuci.edu



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF VENTURA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ERIK NASARENKO
District Attorney

LISA O. LYTIKAINEN
Chief Assistant District Attorney

SCOTT WHITNEY
Chief Investigator

CLOYCE J. CONWAY
Deputy Chief Investigator

May 31, 2023

Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Ventura Oaks Way #200
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: Support of Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force

The Ventura County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation is committed to supporting the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force in partnership with every law enforcement agency in Ventura County and the Ventura County Probation Agency. Through a collaborative effort, we will aggressively investigate these thefts that plague our communities and focus on disrupting theft groups that conspire to steal, distribute, and sell stolen goods. These theft groups often work regionally or move throughout the state to avoid detection, arrest, and prosecution. By working together, we can ensure that every area of the county will benefit from the work of the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force.

The Ventura County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation will support the task force through dedicated personnel, combined agency theft deterrent operations, and sharing of intelligence. Currently, the collaborative efforts of multiple agencies within Ventura County work closely together as part of numerous drug, violent crime, and community supportive task forces. These preexisting relationships coupled with common goals and values will make this partnership successful as well. Along with our personnel dedicated to the task force, other resources and investigators will be made available to ensure the program is successful. Through our collaborative efforts focused on Ventura County, we anticipate lower crime throughout the county and regionally as these theft crews are identified and prosecuted.

Board of State and Community Corrections

May 31, 2023

Page 2

The Ventura County District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation has policies preventing Bias Based Policing and a practice that every member of the community is treated fairly, professionally, and with respect. We are committed to abiding by policies and laws limiting the use of surveillance technology for official investigative purposes and to prevent crime. Any additional technology purchased through the grant will be used solely to support the goals of the task force and investigate crime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Whitney", is written over the typed name and title.

Scott Whitney
Chief Investigator



COUNTY OF VENTURA PROBATION AGENCY

June 28, 2023
Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Ventura Oaks Way #200
Sacramento, CA 95833

RE: Support of Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force

The Ventura County Probation Agency is committed to supporting the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force in partnership with every law enforcement agency in Ventura County along with the District Attorney's Office. Through a collaborative effort, thefts that plague our communities will be aggressively investigated and there will be a strong focus on disrupting theft groups that conspire to steal, distribute, and sell stolen goods. These theft groups often work regionally or move throughout the state to avoid detection, arrest, and prosecution. By working together, we can ensure that every area of the county will benefit from the work of the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force.

The Ventura County Probation Agency will support the task force through dedicated personnel, combined agency theft deterrent operations, and sharing of intelligence. Currently, the collaborative efforts of multiple agencies within Ventura County work closely together as part of numerous drugs, violent crime, and community supportive task forces. These preexisting relationships coupled with common goals and values will make this partnership successful as well. Along with our personnel dedicated to the task force, other resources and investigators will be made available to ensure the program is successful. Through our collaborative efforts focused on Ventura County, we anticipate lower crime throughout the county and regionally as these theft crews are identified and prosecuted.

The Ventura County Probation Agency has policies preventing biased probation work and a practice that every member of the community is treated fairly, professionally, and with respect. We are committed to abiding by policies and laws limiting the use of surveillance technology for official investigative purposes and to prevent crime. Any additional technology purchased through the grant will be used solely to support the goals of the task force and investigate crime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gina Johnson".

Gina Johnson
Interim Chief Probation Officer
Ventura County Probation Agency
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009



COUNTY of VENTURA
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Sevet Johnson, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

Kaye Mand
County Chief Financial Officer

Shawn Atin
Assistant County Executive
Officer/
Human Resources Director
Labor Relations

June 1, 2023

California Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Venture Oaks Way
Suite 200
Sacramento, California 95833

Re: Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force

To Whom It May Concern,

The County of Ventura will be applying for the Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant funded by California State Senate Bill 154. The County will be creating the Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force as a collaborative effort of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, Ventura County Probation Agency, and the Bureau of Investigation of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office. The task force will also be made up of personnel from every local police department in the county to include the Oxnard Police Department, Port Hueneme Police Department, Santa Paula Police Department, Simi Valley Police Department, Ventura Police Department, Ventura County Community College District Police Department, and the California State University Channel Islands Police Department. All of these agencies will be joining the County of Ventura in one application for funding. **I am designating the Ventura County Sheriff's Office as the Lead Public Agency.**

Ventura County, like other cities and counties throughout the state, has seen a dramatic increase in organized retail theft and auto component theft over the last few years. Our county is home to numerous large retail shopping centers, auto malls, and other highly targeted areas for these criminal enterprises. Our Country's geographic location and major state highways also make us a convenient target to these groups that move quickly through areas during their crime sprees. This collaborative approach will join resources throughout the county to prevent crime, investigate local organized retail theft cases, and share data regionally to identify and prosecute these groups.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office is highly experienced in task force operations coordination of resources to maintain strong partnerships with our other law enforcement agencies, the community, and our businesses to prevent crime. The Ventura County Organized Retail Theft Task Force is capable and prepared to manage these grant funds to benefit the residents of Ventura County as well as the State of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sevet Johnson'.

Dr. Sevet Johnson
County Executive Officer

Bias-Based Policing

401.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance to department members that affirms the Ventura County Sheriff's Office's commitment to policing that is fair and objective.

Nothing in this policy prohibits the use of specified characteristics in law enforcement activities designed to strengthen the department's relationship with its diverse communities (e.g., cultural and ethnicity awareness training, youth programs, community group outreach, partnerships).

401.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Bias-based policing - An inappropriate reliance on actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, disability, or affiliation with any non-criminal group (protected characteristics) as the basis for providing differing law enforcement service or enforcement (Penal Code § 13519.4).

401.2 POLICY

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing law enforcement services to the community with due regard for the racial, cultural or other differences of those served. It is the policy of this department to provide law enforcement services and to enforce the law equally, fairly, objectively and without discrimination toward any individual or group.

401.3 BIAS-BASED POLICING PROHIBITED

Bias-based policing is strictly prohibited.

However, nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit a deputy from considering protected characteristics in combination with credible, timely and distinct information connecting a person or people of a specific characteristic to a specific unlawful incident, or to specific unlawful incidents, specific criminal patterns or specific schemes.

401.3.1 REPORTING TO CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Professional Standards Bureau Commander shall ensure that all data required by the Department of Justice (DOJ) regarding complaints of racial bias against deputies is collected and reported annually to DOJ (Penal Code § 13012; Penal Code § 13020).

401.3.2 CALIFORNIA RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT

Members shall not collect information from a person based on religious belief, practice, affiliation, national origin or ethnicity unless permitted under state or federal law (Government Code § 8310.3).

Members shall not assist federal government authorities (Government Code § 8310.3):

Ventura County Sheriff's Office

Ventura County SO Policy Manual

Ventura County SO Policy Manual

Bias-Based Policing

- (a) In compiling personal information about a person's religious belief, practice, affiliation, national origin or ethnicity.
- (b) By investigating, enforcing or assisting with the investigation or enforcement of any requirement that a person register with the federal government based on religious belief, practice, or affiliation, or national origin or ethnicity.

401.3.3 RACIAL IDENTITY PROFILING ACT (RIPA)

Department members shall collect and report data for all individuals detained or searched during a call for service or self-initiated activity, in accordance with the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (Government Code § 12525.5).

This data shall be collected through the department developed application that can be found on department issued electronic equipment and should be submitted upon completion of the activity and unless prior approved, prior to the end of shift.

Field Supervisors shall review and ensure that personal identifying information is not included in the RIPA information prior to approval. Approval of RIPA data shall be completed in most cases prior to the end of shift.

401.4 TRAINING

Training on fair and objective policing and review of this policy should be conducted as directed by the Training Center.

- (a) All sworn members of this department will be scheduled to attend Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)-approved training on the subject of bias-based policing.
- (b) Pending participation in such POST-approved training and at all times, all members of this department are encouraged to familiarize themselves with and consider racial and cultural differences among members of this community.
- (c) Each sworn member of this department who received initial bias-based policing training will thereafter be required to complete an approved refresher course every five years, or sooner if deemed necessary, in order to keep current with changing racial, identity and cultural trends (Penal Code § 13519.4(i)).

401.5 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Every member of this department shall perform his/her duties in a fair and objective manner and is responsible for promptly reporting any suspected or known instances of bias-based policing to a supervisor. Members should, when reasonable to do so, intervene to prevent any biased-based actions by another member.

401.6 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors shall handle any alleged or observed violation of this policy in accordance with the Personnel Complaints Policy.

AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS (ALPRs)

429.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this usage and privacy policy is to provide guidance for the capture, storage and use of digital data obtained through the use of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology.

ALPR technology allows for the automated detection of license plates. It is used by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office to convert data associated with vehicle license plates for official law enforcement purposes, including identifying stolen or wanted vehicles, stolen license plates and missing persons. It may also be used to gather information related to active warrants, homeland security, electronic surveillance, suspect interdiction and stolen property recovery.

429.1.1 ADMINISTRATION

All installations and maintenance of ALPR equipment, as well as ALPR data retention and access, shall be managed by the Operations Assistant Sheriff. The Operations Assistant Sheriff will assign personnel to administer the day-to-day operation of the ALPR equipment and data.

The Professional Standards Captain, in conjunction with the ALPR oversight manager, shall be responsible for developing guidelines and procedures to comply with the requirements of Civil Code Section 1798.90.5 This shall include:

- (a) A description of the job title or other designation of the employees and independent contractors who are authorized to use or access the ALPR system or to collect ALPR information.
- (b) Training requirements for authorized users.
- (c) A description of how the ALPR system will be monitored to ensure the security of the information and compliance with applicable privacy laws.
- (d) Procedures for system operators to maintain records of access in compliance with Civil Code Section 1798.90.52.
- (e) The title and name of the current designee overseeing the ALPR operation.
- (f) Ensuring retention and destruction of ALPR data is compliant with the records retention policy.
- (g) Ensuring this policy and related procedures are posted on the department's website.

429.2 ALPR OPERATION

Use of an ALPR is restricted to the purposes outlined below. Department personnel shall not use, or allow other to use, the equipment or database records for any unauthorized purpose. (Civil Code Section 1798.90.51 & 1798.90.53):

- (a) Designated Sworn and Professional staff trained on the use of ALPR may gather data using this technology.

Ventura County Sheriff's Office

Ventura County SO Policy Manual

Ventura County SO Policy Manual

AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS (ALPRs)

- (b) Only designated staff engaged in official duties, conducting audits of ALPR, or database maintenance will have access to ALPR data.
- (c) An ALPR shall only be used for official and legitimate law enforcement business.
- (d) An ALPR may be used in conjunction with any routine patrol operation or criminal investigation. Reasonable suspicion or probable cause is not required before using an ALPR.
- (e) While an ALPR may be used to canvass license plates around any crime scene, particular consideration should be given to using ALPR-equipped cars to canvass areas around homicides, shootings and other major incidents. Partial license plates reported during major crimes should be entered into the ALPR system in an attempt to identify suspect vehicles.
- (f) No member of this department shall operate ALPR equipment or access ALPR data without first completing department approved training.
- (g) No ALPR operator may access department, state or federal data unless authorized to do so.
- (h) Deputies **shall** visually verify the vehicle's license plate to ensure the ALPR read the plate correctly. Deputies **shall** confirm the alert/want is still active with Sheriff's Dispatch prior to stopping a vehicle based upon the LPR alert alone.
- (i) In the event that an ALPR misreads a license plate, the operator of that system shall notify the Crime Analysis Unit to correct the data. The Crime Analysis Unit is charged with correcting data errors.

429.3 ALPR DATA COLLECTION AND RETENTION

The ALPR Server will be set to retain data for five (5) years, unless it is being used for a criminal or civil action. When data is retained for this purpose the data shall be maintained until the disposition of the case, including any appeal or administrative due process periods. In these circumstances the data should be removed from the server and stored on portable media and appropriately booked/retained.

429.4 ACCOUNTABILITY AND SAFEGUARDS

All saved data will be closely safeguarded and protected by both procedural and technological means. The Ventura County Sheriff's Office will observe the following safeguards regarding access to and use of the stored data:

- (a) All stored ALPR data shall only be accessible through a login/password-protected process capable of documenting all access to the information by user, date and time (Civil Code Section 1798.90.52)
- (b) ALPR system audits should be conducted on a regular basis.

429.5 TRAINING

The ALPR oversight manager shall ensure that employees receive department-approved training to use or access the ALPR system (Civil Code Section 1798.90.51 & 1798.90.53).

Ventura County Sheriff's Office

Ventura County SO Policy Manual

Ventura County SO Policy Manual

AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS (ALPRs)

429.6 PRIVACY STATEMENT & POLICY

The Policy of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office is to utilize ALPR technology to capture and store digital license plate data and images while recognizing the established privacy rights of the public. All data and images gathered by the ALPR are for the official use of this department. Because such data may contain confidential information, it is not open, nor available, to the public for review.

429.7 RELEASING ALPR DATA

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office shares ALPR data with other law enforcement agencies upon the execution of an inter-agency agreement by which each agency agrees that all ALPR data will be gathered, accessed, utilized and disclosed in accordance with applicable law. Each agency, by way of the agreement, further commits to the following;

- (a) ALPR data shall only be accessible to authorized users for legitimate purposes.
- (b) Audits shall be conducted and maintained by each agency as defined by their department's policy.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office does not share ALPR data with commercial or private entities.

Ventura County Sheriff's Office

Ventura County SO Policy Manual

Ventura County SO Policy Manual

Facial Recognition

- (d) When an individual is under arrest and their identity is needed to determine whether he or she has previously been arrested and charged with a crime.
- (e) Occasionally, surveillance video or photos of suspects are of such quality that photographs may be taken of the surveillance footage and submitted via the mobile application.

Any individual that refuses to be photographed shall neither be physically forced to do so nor will they be subject to arrest for their refusal.

Investigative Desktop Searches. Advanced searches through the desktop application allow a user to extract facial images from video or photo's, manipulate the angle of a face and/or enhance facial features. These types of searches are conducted only by individuals, typically in Crime Analysis, who have received specialized training that is in addition to the training received for field users. Investigative searches may be conducted in one of the following circumstances:

- (a) When there is reasonable suspicion that the suspect to be searched has committed a crime.
- (b) When the person to be searched is believed to be a victim or witness of a crime.

428.5 RELEASING FACIAL RECOGNITION DATA TO ALLIED AGENCIES

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office shares photos stored in the facial recognition database with other law enforcement agencies upon the execution of an inter-agency agreement by which each agency agrees:

- (a) Facial recognition data shall be available only to authorized users for legitimate law enforcement purposes.
- (b) Reasonable efforts will be made to ensure the accuracy of its data.
- (c) Audit trails shall be maintained by each agency as defined by their policy.