



# Folsom City Council Staff Report

<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	6/13/2023
<b>AGENDA SECTION:</b>	Consent Calendar
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Resolution No. 11042 - A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application for Grant Funds to the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program
<b>FROM:</b>	Police Department

## **RECOMMENDATION / CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution 11042 - A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application for Grant Funds to the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program.

## **BACKGROUND / ISSUE**

Organized Retail Theft (ORT) is characterized by structured criminal rings that steal property with the intent to sell, distribute, or return stolen merchandise for value. It can take many forms from coordinated thefts of specific goods to orchestrated, brazen thefts on local retailers. Organized Retail Theft incidents are often part of sophisticated criminal networks that plan their operations weeks or months before they are carried out.

As reported by the National Retail Federation, Organized Retail Theft accounts for nearly \$30 billion in economic loss per year. This loss is carried by retailers on many levels but will ultimately be passed on to the consumer through price increases to offset economic loss. While the problem is commonly associated with shoplifting, it often extends well beyond organized criminal activity. Commercial burglary, vehicle burglary, identity theft, credit card fraud, forgery, mail theft, and fencing stolen property are all part of a bigger picture that finances ongoing criminal organizations. The advent of online marketplaces ensures that stolen property can be easily sold with relative anonymity.

To address this growing problem, the California Legislature enacted Penal Code 490.4. This bill codified the meaning of Organized Retail Theft and allowed the District Attorney to file a felony charge if these acts were committed in concert with another person.

The City of Folsom is fortunate to have a large amount of retail and commercial businesses which add value and economic diversity to our community. Unfortunately, this also makes our City a regional target for Organized Retail Theft criminal rings. Consistent with national trends, The City of Folsom has seen an alarming increase in Organized Retail Theft activity over the past three years. In 2021, the Police Department responded to over 100 Organized Retail Theft calls and that number increased to over 125 calls in 2022. If trends continue, the City will easily surpass that number in 2023. These statistics do not include routine theft calls that the Police Department responds to daily. In response to this development, staff are seeking funding sources to deploy and implement proven methods to curtail these activities.

The State Budget Act of 2022 (SB 154) established the Organized Retail Theft Grant Program. The program allocated \$242,250,000 that can be used by Police Departments to address concerns related to organized retail theft, motor vehicle or motor vehicle accessory theft, and cargo theft. Proposals selected for funding will be under agreement with the BSCC from October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026.

## **POLICY / RULE**

City Council Resolution 8367 states that grant applications, including any requiring an ongoing commitment of resources or staff, shall be reviewed and approved by the City Council prior to submittal.

## **ANALYSIS**

Staff are committed to upholding the Police Department's vision which states, in part, that we will remain a premier Law Enforcement Agency through technological advancements. An award from this grant will allow the Police Department to uphold our vision while facing budgetary shortfalls.

Our investigative staff have found that apprehension and successful prosecution of these subjects relies on collaboration with outside agencies, the implementation of new technologies, and cooperation with our retail partners.

The installation of additional license plate reader (LPR) cameras at the ingress/egress points of our retail centers is one way to accomplish all three of these objectives as information can be shared in real time with our regional Law Enforcement partners. Staff have met with the management of both of our two largest retail centers, and they agree that additional LPR cameras would be effective.

The eligible funding activities for this grant include, but are not limited to automated license plate readers, cameras, case management systems, investigative software, RFI Tracker/Tracking devices, online and print advertising, and staff expenses. According to the grant, these items can be purchased or implemented with no match requirement from the City of Folsom. The Police Department does not intend to add additional staff if awarded this grant, but funds could be used to supplement existing staffing levels/overtime costs with high visibility patrol at targeted locations.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

As stated above, this grant does not require matching funds from the City. Any financial impact to the City could come in the form of leasing agreements for equipment (such as cameras) or subscription services for any investigative software at the end of the three-year period.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

RESOLUTION NO. 11042 - A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application For Grant Funds to the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program

Submitted,

Richard Hillman  
Chief of Police

**RESOLUTION NO. 11042**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS TO THE CALIFORNIA BOARD OF STATE AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS (BSCC) ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS** the City of Folsom desires to participate in the Organized Retail Theft Prevention Grant Program funded through the State Budget Act and administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections (hereafter referred to as the BSCC).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Manager be authorized on behalf of the Folsom City Council to submit the grant proposal for this funding and sign the Grant Agreement with the BSCC, including any amendments thereof.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that grant funds received hereunder shall not be used to supplant expenditures controlled by this body.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City of Folsom agrees to abide by the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement as set forth by the BSCC.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 13th day of June 2023, by the following roll-call vote:

**AYES:** Councilmember(s):  
**NOES:** Councilmember(s):  
**ABSENT:** Councilmember(s):  
**ABSTAIN:** Councilmember(s):

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Rosario Rodriguez, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Christa Freemantle, CITY CLERK