



Program #15301C - Organized Retail Theft Task Force FY 2025 Proposed

Department: District Attorney **Program Contact:** Don Rees
Program Offer Type: Operating **Program Offer Stage:** Proposed

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: New Request, One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

The DDA organizes and leads a task force involving district attorney investigators, law enforcement, and retailers to tackle retail crime, including improved strategies targeting the most prolific offenders, training, and case preparation. The outcome of this effort is a reduction in organized retail theft, a safer environment for consumers, and an improved business climate.

Program Description

The DDA assigned to this position works with business owners and law enforcement to combat an epidemic of organized retail theft. Unlike shoplifting, organized retail theft involves multiple persons or prolific individuals stealing typically high value merchandise to resell for profit. This theft represents billions of dollars in losses for the retail industry nationwide. Small business owners in the community are impacted alongside large retailers. Locally, some retailers, including Nike, REI and others have closed their operations due to an overwhelming number of merchandise thefts. The DDA assigned to this position has initiated a number of prosecutions against individuals who are charged with stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars in merchandise. This merchandise is typically resold illicitly via social media. Effective January 1st, 2024 retail theft prosecutors have new statutory tools allowing for cross jurisdictional charging and great ability to aggregate thefts for enhanced penalties. These new laws will enhance the ability of the organized retail theft DDA to prosecute the worst offenders and to assist business owners.

This program is in partnership with the Portland Police Bureau, Gresham Police Dept., and Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. PPB funds a DA Investigator and .5 Legal Assistant.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budgeted	FY24 Estimate	FY25 Target
Output	Number of theft charges involving a business victim reviewed by prosecutor assigned to the task force	N/A	240	140	150
Outcome	Percent of referred felony theft cases involving a business victim issued for prosecution by the prosecutor	N/A	80%	80%	80%

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2024	2024	2025	2025
Personnel	\$400,498	\$0	\$438,110	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$400,498	\$0	\$438,110	\$0
Program Total:	\$400,498		\$438,110	
Program FTE	2.50	0.00	2.50	0.00

Program Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$175,000	\$0	\$204,914	\$0
Total Revenue	\$175,000	\$0	\$204,914	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

\$204,914 from the City of Portland to fund 1.50 FTE (1 FTE DA Investigator position and 0.50 FTE Legal Assistant position)

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2024: 15301C Organized Retail Theft Task Force