



BUDGET REQUEST

ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME UNIT

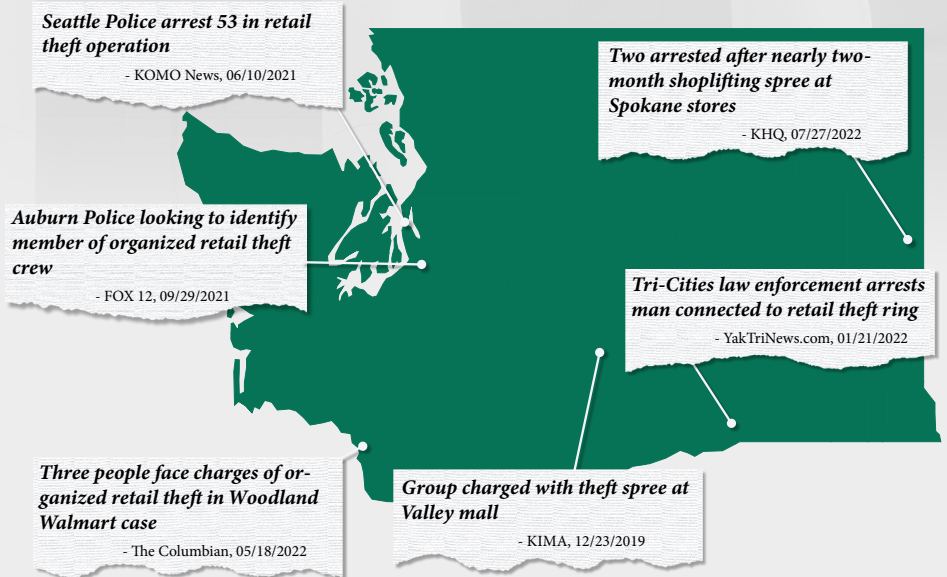
\$1.5 million/year will fund a 10-person statewide unit focused on organized retail crime, including:

- 2 prosecutors
- 4 criminal investigators
- Data analyst
- Professional support staff

The Organized Retail Crimes Unit will be able to assist local, state, and federal law enforcement investigations, including coordinating them across multiple jurisdictions. The unit will also be able to prosecute cases referred the office by county prosecutors. Without such a referral, the Attorney General's Office has no jurisdiction over criminal matters.

This Unit will focus exclusively on organized crimes involving a group of individuals that steal products not for their own personal use, but to resell them for a profit. This does not include general retail crimes like petty theft, shoplifting or poverty-driven crimes.

Organized Retail Crime is a statewide, cross-jurisdictional problem that demands a statewide unit. Arizona, Illinois, and Michigan recently created similar units in the Attorney General's Office.



Support from business and labor:

“As the retail industry continues to recover from the pandemic, there has never been a more critical time in Washington state to address the growing impacts of organized retail crime on public safety and the safety of our customers and retail employees. Funding the unit is an important part of a multi-pronged approach to coordinate the efforts of state and local law enforcement, prosecutors, retailers and policymakers at multiple agencies and levels of government.”

- Renée Sunde, President and CEO of the Washington Retail Association

“Organized retail crime harms workers in communities across our state. A centralized unit in the Attorney General's Office focused on combating this problem will improve the lives of Washingtonians.”

- Faye Guenther, President of UFCW 3000.

Prime Sponsor:

Rep. Lekanoff (D-40)
Sen. Dhingra (D-45)

Office Contact:

Joyce Bruce, Legislative Affairs Director
Joyce.Bruce@atg.wa.gov - (206) 573-4492

