

Retail Crime in the US

Challenges, Collaboration, and Private/Public Partnership

Multi-Factor Complexity

- ORC Impacts – traditional and on-line/e-comm
- De-criminalization of retail crime – felony thresholds, Prop 47, stated or tacit lack of police response, lack of sanctions
- Constrained public resources – criminal justice, towns/cities, criticism around “over-use” of police resources
- Opioid/Drug epidemic – increased offending, retail scape-goating as enablers, legalization of marijuana – impact on employment, drug screening, workplace issues
- Criticism of alternative sanctions/tools – restorative justice, civil demand, refund authorization, facial recognition

Geographic/Jurisdictional Complexities

- ~18,000 Law Enforcement Agencies
- 19,354 Cities
- 3,141 Counties
- 19,429 Municipal/City Bodies
- 135,351 Elected City Officials



Example: New Jersey

- Population = 9 million (2.7% of US)
- Km² = 22,591
- 21 counties/prosecutors – each with adult and juvenile courts
- City prosecutors with jurisdiction over misdemeanors in city boundary
- 536 police departments who, by law, have ability to divert misdemeanor juvenile case



Potential Solutions

- Legislation/Lobbying – Felony thresholds; aggregation
- Collaboration – regional ORCA's; municipal solutions; national failures
- Solutions Providers – automation; data collection; aggregation
- Alternative Sanctions – civil demand; restorative justice; holistic action plans