

March 7, 2022

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Sr., Chair
Assembly Committee on Public Safety
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1599 (Kiley) Proposition 47: Repeal
Notice of SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer,

The City of La Quinta **STRONGLY supports AB 1599 (Kiley)**, which repeals and amends certain definitions and penalties for theft crimes and the possession of controlled substances made by Proposition 47, except those related to the possession of concentrated cannabis.

La Quinta supports legislation that strengthens local law enforcement and safeguards communities. The recent surge in organized and smash-and-grab retail theft across the state has affected businesses from national chains to local boutiques, negatively impacting economic development in cities large and small. By lowering the felony threshold from \$950 to \$400 for theft crimes, offenders will be prosecuted with more severity and our businesses and vulnerable populations will have a better sense of security and confidence in their public safety.

Proposition 47, the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act of 2014, reclassified certain crimes from felonies to misdemeanors, including that petty theft and shoplifting crimes not exceeding \$950. Senior citizens and dependent adults have been targets for fraud, forgery, embezzlement, and identity theft. These theft crimes are only punishable as misdemeanors if the taken property or information does not exceed \$950. Due to the changes made by Proposition 47 and the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, law enforcement agencies have seen a dramatic spike theft crime targeting our elders and dependent adults.

For these reasons, the City of La Quinta **STRONGLY supports** AB 1599 and urges your "aye" vote in the Assembly Committee on Public Safety. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Linda Evans, Mayor
City of La Quinta

CC: Assembly Member Kevin Kiley, Author
Members, Assembly Committee on Public Safety
Senator Melissa Melendez, Senate District 28
Assembly Member Chad Mayes, Assembly District 42
Members of the City of La Quinta Council
League of California Cities