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EXECUTIVE ORDER

Establishing the Interagency Task Force on Organized Retail Theft

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order establishing the Interagency Task Force on Organized Retail Theft (“Task Force”).

1. Background, Need, and Purpose

Organized retail theft costs Colorado businesses millions of dollars annually. Each year, teams of professional thieves steal infant formula, over the counter medications, health and beauty products, film, batteries, and other items. These groups then resell the merchandise, increasing losses to legitimate Colorado retailers and ultimately driving up consumer prices.

This type of theft endangers retail workers in Colorado, hurts local business, and funds other criminal enterprises. Despite efforts to curb professional shoplifting, trained thieves continue to drain resources from Colorado retailers.

In 2006, Colorado legislators recognized the need to protect local vendors from organized retail theft by requiring secondhand dealers of baby food, clothing, cosmetics, over the counter drugs, infant formula, batteries, and razor blades to have proof of ownership for these products. However, further steps need to be taken to ensure the continued commitment to eradicating organized retail theft in Colorado. This Executive Order creates an Interagency Task Force on Organized Retail Theft to investigate methods that will effectively reduce organized retail theft and to develop recommendations to enhance law enforcement efforts and education concerning organized retail theft within the State of Colorado.

2. Mission and Scope

The objective of the Task Force is to investigate methods of effectively preventing organized retail theft and to provide to the Governor and the Judiciary Committees of the House of

Representatives and the Senate with its recommendations regarding enhanced law enforcement practices and retailer education that will help deter organized retail theft.

To that end, the Task Force will work to:

- A. Facilitate Colorado's communication with the Federal Organized Retail Theft Task Force created within the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- B. Secure funding, if made available by the federal government, to Colorado law enforcement agencies that combat organized retail theft;
- C. Involve the General Assembly, law enforcement agencies, district attorneys, and retail businesses in Colorado in determining the most appropriate strategies to deter and reduce organized retail theft.

The Task Force shall meet to address these issues, and shall provide its recommendations to the Governor and the Judiciary Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, or any successor committees, by September 1, 2008.

3. Membership

The Task Force shall consist of the following members:

- A. A representative of a statewide organization of county sheriffs to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- B. A representative of a statewide organization of Chiefs of Police to be appointed by the President of the Senate;
- C. A representative of a statewide organization that represents Colorado's elected county commissioners to be appointed by the Governor;
- D. A representative of a statewide organization that represents Colorado's elected City Council members to be appointed by the Governor;
- E. A representative of a statewide organization of district attorneys to be appointed by the President of the Senate;
- F. The Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety or his designee; and
- G. Four persons actively engaged in retail business in Colorado, two of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be

appointed by the President of the Senate, and one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor.

The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Governor shall jointly agree on and select a chairperson from the appointed persons described, and such chairperson shall call the first meeting of the Task Force.

4. Staffing and Resources

Each state agency shall cooperate with the Task Force and furnish it with such information and assistance as is necessary or useful to further the purposes of this Executive Order and the mission of the Task Force. The Department of Public Safety shall provide administrative assistance for the Task Force. The Task Force shall have the power to accept money and in-kind contributions from private entities and persons only to the extent such donations are necessary to cover its expenses. Any money contributed to the Task Force shall be directed to the Office of the Governor and deposited with the Treasurer of the State of Colorado in an account within the Office of the Governor's budget. Members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation, but may, at the discretion of the chair and approval of the Office of the Governor, be reimbursed for any actual expenses incurred.

5. Directive

The Interagency Task Force on Organized Retail Theft is hereby created.

6. Duration

This Executive Order shall remain in force until June 1, 2009, at which time the Task Force shall be dissolved.

GIVEN under my hand and
the Executive Seal of the
State of Colorado, this 17th
day of October, 2007.

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor