



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Attorney General

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Virginia General Assembly
201 N. 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Annual Report on the Organized Retail Crime Fund per § 2.2-511.2

Dear Members of the Virginia General Assembly,

I am writing to provide an annual report summarizing the activities of the Organized Retail Crime Fund (the "Fund"). This non-reverting Fund was established by Chapter 357 and Chapter 358 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023, to be administered by the Attorney General solely for the purpose of awarding grants to attorneys for the Commonwealth and law enforcement agencies to investigate, indict, and prosecute organized retail theft and associated fraud and property crimes.

Fiscal year 2024 (FY24) was an organizational year for the Organized Retail Crime Unit within the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), which became fully staffed in May 2024. In the past year, significant progress has been made in establishing partnerships with law enforcement and Commonwealth's Attorneys across the state. Additionally, the Office has procured the intelligence-sharing platform, VORTEX ("Virginia Organized Retail Theft Exchange") which is available to every locality across the Commonwealth. Currently, there are over 160 users, which include law enforcement agencies, Commonwealth's Attorneys, and retailers. The use of this platform has already led to 14 arrests, including individuals involved in multi-state organized retail crime groups. While there were no distributions from the Fund in FY24, since no funds have been appropriated or collected, as the office continues to work with agencies, we anticipate the Fund will start receiving money through asset forfeiture in the future.

The OAG remains committed to fighting organized retail crime and supporting prosecutors and law enforcement agencies with the necessary tools to hold perpetrators accountable. The guidelines for the administration of the Fund will be finalized by the end of year.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason S. Miyares".

Jason S. Miyares
Attorney General of Virginia