



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,

Overview

In 2023, the General Assembly authorized the creation of the Organized Retail Crime Fund (the Fund), a non-reverting account established by Chapter 357 and Chapter 358 of the Acts of Assembly of 2023, to be administered by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to support investigations, indictments, and prosecutions of organized retail theft and related crimes. Fiscal Year 2024 marked the organizational year of the Attorney General's Organized Retail Crime (ORC) Unit and the launch of the Virginia Organized Retail Theft Exchange (VORTEX), a statewide intelligence-sharing platform that connects law enforcement, Commonwealth's Attorneys, and retailers, facilitating the exchange of information and coordination of efforts.

2024 Progress

The OAG successfully launched VORTEX in FY24 with 160 participants, laying the groundwork for collaboration between law enforcement and retail stakeholders. By the end of the fiscal year, the platform had already led to 14 arrests, including individuals tied to multi-state ORC groups. In addition, the enhanced Class 3 felony statute created in 2023 resulted in its first convictions, with seven offenders prosecuted under the new law.

2025 Key Results

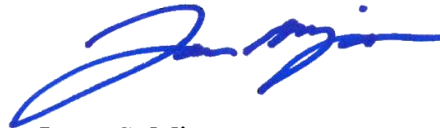
The impact of these initiatives is evident in the latest data. Shoplifting reports increased from 40,734 in 2023 to 46,129 in 2024, reflecting greater engagement from retailers in reporting crimes. In 2025, 23,505 reports were filed, putting the Commonwealth on pace for a **35% decrease** compared to 2024. **Convictions** under the enhanced **Class 3 felony** have risen significantly: from **zero in 2023**, to **seven in 2024**, and already **twenty in 2025**. This increase in convictions is a testament to the effectiveness of our efforts. VORTEX participation has also grown from 160 participants in 2024 to over 300 participants in 2025, significantly expanding coordination and intelligence sharing across jurisdictions.

Fund Status

Although the Fund was established in 2023, no monies have yet been collected through asset seizures and forfeitures. Nevertheless, the Office of the Attorney General has worked diligently to support law enforcement and Commonwealth's Attorneys in achieving successful prosecutions of offenders under the enhanced Class 3 felony statute. Looking ahead, we anticipate seizing funds and property connected to ORC networks, which will provide critical resources to strengthen and sustain future prosecutions across the Commonwealth.

The Office of the Attorney General remains steadfast in its commitment to expanding intelligence-sharing and real-time coordination through VORTEX, supporting prosecutors and law enforcement with resources to dismantle ORC networks, and seeking appropriations and asset forfeiture allocations to operationalize the Fund and strengthen statewide enforcement. Our dedication to this cause is unwavering, and we remain determined to continue our efforts until ORC networks are dismantled and driven out of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jason Miyares', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jason S. Miyares
Attorney General of Virginia