



RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR, DISTRICT 51

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2023

Contact: Vienna Montague
PH: (916) 319-2051
EM: Vienna.Montague@asm.ca.gov

Hearing Date Announced for Select Committee on Retail Theft *Date and Location Finalized for the First Hearing of the Select Committee on Retail Theft*

SACRAMENTO, CA — A date and location has been finalized for the first hearing of the new Select Committee on Retail Theft. The committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at the Capitol Annex Swing Space from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

California State Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas formed the Select Committee on Retail Theft in October 2023, naming Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) as Committee Chair. The Select Committee is comprised of bipartisan members from across the state, including from areas most impacted by retail theft.

“One of the most significant challenges that I hear about from my constituents is retail crime,” said Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur. “People must feel safe enough to work and shop in their own communities. When they don’t, businesses close, workers lose valuable job opportunities, and customers turn to online retailers. Retail crime is not just an inconvenience and bad for business – it also can be a terrifying and traumatic experience for store employees and customers. The committee will provide a forum to engage impacted stakeholders – including large retailers, small businesses, criminal justice reform advocates, law enforcement, and representatives of workers and the public – to explore policy solutions to this ongoing crisis. I am thankful for the commitment shown by Speaker Rivas and the members of the Assembly to find smart and effective solutions to this trend of retail thefts and organized crime.”

The 11 Committee members are:

Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) – Committee Chair
Assemblymember Juan Alanis (R-Merced & Stanislaus)
Assemblymember David Alvarez (D-San Diego)
Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Alameda & San Francisco)
Assemblymember Vince Fong (R-Kern & Tulare)
Assemblymember Matt Haney (D-San Francisco)
Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento)
Assemblymember Liz Ortega (D-Alameda)
Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco (D-Los Angeles & Orange)
Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris (D-Orange)
Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo (D-Los Angeles)

Retail crime – which encompasses shoplifting, commercial burglary, and commercial robbery – has seen an alarming rise in California, most notably, but not exclusively, in the Bay Area, the Central Valley, and Los Angeles County. Currently, Los Angeles County has the highest rate of commercial robbery, which is a violent crime defined as theft involving the threat or use of force. Commercial burglary has increased statewide, becoming the most common type of retail theft in recent years, and is at its highest rate since 2008. In 2022, Kern, San Francisco, and Fresno experienced the highest rates of commercial burglary, and rates in Fresno, Alameda, and Orange Counties were 50 percent higher than before the pandemic.

The Select Committee on Retail Theft will continue its work through the 2024 legislative session.

###

Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur serves as the Democratic Caucus Chair for the California State Assembly and represents the 51st Assembly District, including Hollywood, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Westwood, Santa Monica, and portions of Los Angeles.