

James Nolan

Minority Whip
Legislator, 15th District
Chair, Committee on Appointments



Committee Assignments:
Budget & Appropriations
Parks & Recreation

To: Catherine Borgia, Chairwoman of the Board of Legislators
Sunday Vanderberg, Clerk of the Board of Legislators
Colin Smith, Chair of the Legislation Committee
Terry Clements, Chair of the Public Safety Committee

From: James Nolan, Legislator, District 15

Date: October 4, 2022

Re: *A Resolution by The Yonkers City Council to Recognize and Address the Scourge of Rampant Shoplifting Occurring in Retail Businesses Throughout the City of Yonkers*

Attached is a Resolution passed by the Yonkers City Council addressing the rise in shoplifting cases across the State

Please refer to the Legislation Committee and the Public Safety Committee

ANNOTATED AGENDA
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YONKERS
STATED MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021

RESOLUTION NO.167-2021

5. BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT KHADER, MAJORITY LEADER PINEDA-ISAAC, MINORITY LEADER BREEN, COUNCILMEMBERS WILLIAMS, DIAZ, RUBBO AND MERANTE:

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF YONKERS TO RECOGNIZE AND ADDRESS THE SCOURGE OF RAMPANT SHOPLIFTING OCCURRING IN RETAIL BUSINESSES THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF YONKERS

WHEREAS, the City of Yonkers is a major center for retail shopping businesses, ranging from small local stores to major national retail businesses, which provide an important source of financial benefit to the City of Yonkers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Yonkers has great interest in providing a safe, secure and vibrant environment for the retail shopping needs of all residents, merchants and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, similar to increases seen nationwide, the City of Yonkers has been subject to a significant increase in shoplifting incidents in retail stores, which often includes violent incidents against store employees and customers; and

WHEREAS, these incidents put employees and customers in harm, and often result in employees quitting for fear of personal safety and customers refusing to patron stores in which shoplifting is occurring; and

WHEREAS, the cost of additional security and the loss of merchandise seriously impacts the financial operation of these businesses and threatens their ability to remain open; and

WHEREAS, reports indicate that shoplifting incidents are perpetuated by groups of individuals, or shoplifting gangs, and are due in part to the lenient outcomes if they are caught, with many shoplifters often being released with little or no bail and within hours of their arrest; and

WHEREAS, it is also important that the City of Yonkers engage with all local officials and branches of government to discuss the seriousness of this issue and the extent of its negative impact on the City of Yonkers, its residents and businesses; and

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RESOLUTION NO.167-2021 (CONTINUED)

WHEREAS, it is pertinent that businesses remain open for the benefit of the City of Yonkers and the community alike;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council of the City of Yonkers calls upon the Mayor Spano and his administration to recognize and address the problem of shoplifting occurring within the City of Yonkers, and to engage with retailers, both large and small, to help fashion methods to reduce or eliminate shoplifting in their businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this issue also exists throughout the state and involves state-wide legislative matters, is important that the New York State Senate and Assembly also recognize and address the problem of shoplifting occurring throughout the City of Yonkers and the State of New York, and seek to fully enforce existing laws and create stronger laws to deter such actions, particularly with respect to arrest, bail, prosecution and sentencing; and

ALSO BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and the Yonkers State Delegation.

THIS RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT A STATED MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021 BY A VOTE OF 7-0.