



LAORCA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

LOS ANGELES ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME ASSOCIATION

LAORCA'S INAUGURAL SUMMER SYMPOSIUM: 500 ATTEND FOR A DAY OF COLLABORATING, NETWORKING & EDUCATION

The 2025 LAORCA Summer Symposium, held on August 14th at Dodger Stadium, was a significant gathering focused on combating Organized Retail Crime (ORC). LAORCA's symposium theme, *ELEVATE*, focused on elevating partnerships, collaboration, and strategy to combat the growing threat of ORC. Hundreds of participants were in attendance, including law enforcement officials, prosecutors, retailers, and industry partners from California and other regions, all dedicated to addressing ORC. Community leaders and retail experts shared their knowledge, discussing the evolving threats posed by organized retail crime and the legislative measures being taken to counter them. The day featured powerful presentations from the following community leaders: LA County Sheriff Robert Luna, LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell, LA County District Attorney Nathan Hochman, LAPD Deputy Chief Alan Hamilton, California Highway Patrol Assistant Chief Brandon Shipwash, and Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco and many more. Agenda topics included cargo theft, international booster crews, effective case building, investigations into e-fencing, and strategies for writing impactful case reports and successful prosecution. Beyond the educational sessions, the symposium facilitated valuable networking opportunities across different sectors, strengthening the collective resolve to dismantle ORC networks and safeguard communities.



ELEVATE:

**COLLABORATION
PARTNERSHIPS
STRATEGY**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

EXPOSING ORC & CONSEQUENCES: NATHAN HOCHMAN, LA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

We were honored to have Nathan J. Hochman as a featured speaker at the LAORCA 2025 Summer Symposium. DA Hochman delivered a compelling presentation on the retail theft crisis, revealing that approximately 10% of offenders are responsible for nearly half of all retail theft across Los Angeles County. This alarming trend continues to place a significant strain on local businesses and communities.

In response, the District Attorney's Office is taking decisive action through Proposition 36, which went into effect in December 2024. The initiative targets repeat offenders and those who pose a threat to the safety of employees and customers. Since its implementation, the office has filed over 1,600 felony theft charges, focusing not only on direct perpetrators but also on the fencers and networks that fuel organized retail crime. This strategic approach marks a bold and necessary step toward dismantling criminal enterprises and restoring public trust. We're deeply grateful for DA Hochman's leadership and the continued partnership in driving meaningful change across our communities.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

THE UNSEEN THREATS OF ORC: LAPD CHIEF, JIM MCDONNELL

Chief McDonnell addressed the growing threat of Organized Retail Crime (ORC), highlighting its often-overlooked impact on public safety and the economy. Chief McDonnell highlighted recent flash mob activity and the outcomes of effective investigation efforts by LAPD detectives. He specifically referenced successful operations that led to the arrest of key ORC network members and the recovery of stolen goods, demonstrating the LAPD's commitment to proactive enforcement. He reaffirmed his commitment to proactive enforcement and interagency collaboration, positioning the LAPD at the forefront of efforts to identify, disrupt, and dismantle ORC networks across Los Angeles. This includes working closely with other law enforcement agencies, district attorneys, and retail experts to share intelligence and coordinate responses. The LAPD's strategy under Chief McDonnell aims to leverage advanced analytics and community partnerships to combat this evolving threat effectively.



STRATEGIES TO COMBAT ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME



**Brandon Shipwash,
Assistant Chief
California Highway Patrol**

Assistant Chief Brandon Shipwash highlighted the formation of dedicated ORC teams within the CHP, established in response to legislation such as AB 1065 (passed in 2018) and AB 331 (signed in 2021). These specialized teams are strategically deployed across key regions, including San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego/Orange County, with recent expansions into the Valley and Central Divisions, supported by ongoing funding. Assistant Chief Shipwash further underscored the critical importance of collaborative efforts with retailers, allied agencies, and local communities to foster innovative approaches to combat retail theft. Operationally, the CHP's ORC Task Force is focused on identifying and dismantling organized theft groups and their associated fencing operations. Their coordinated efforts encompass a range of tactics, including extensive surveillance, product tracking, investigations into transport and storage networks, targeted "blitz" operations, comprehensive training initiatives, and site assessments. The overarching goal of the department is to establish the benchmark for ORC enforcement and prevention across California.

LAORCA'S INAUGURAL SUMMER SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHTS



Cargo Theft Session with FBI and CHP



LAORCA Board recognized LAPD Chief McDonnell with a Presenter Award



Several LAORCA Board members gather with LAPD Chief



LAORCA recognized Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco with a Presenter Award



LAORCA COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: PICNIC WITH LAORCA



LAORCA Board members gathered for a Picnic with the Long Beach Community



The Picnic with LAORCA event in June was a huge success

LAORCA successfully hosted its first ever Community Picnic on June 26, 2025, in collaboration with the Long Beach Police Department. The event took place at POA Park in Long Beach, California, bringing together professionals from various sectors, including law enforcement and retail professionals. The picnic served as a platform for networking and fostering stronger partnerships in the collective fight against Organized Retail Crime (ORC). Attendees engaged in meaningful conversations with community leaders, reinforcing LAORCA's dedication to collaborative solutions. The event underscored a shared commitment to addressing ORC through community engagement and inter-agency cooperation. Future events and initiatives are expected to build upon the foundation laid by this picnic, further strengthening the ties between law enforcement, retailers, and the community to create safer environments and reduce the impact of organized retail crime.

Give Back, Grow, Get Involved

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH LAORCA

LAORCA provides volunteer opportunities at its events. These opportunities allow volunteers to support LAORCA's mission and gain experience in event management. Volunteers can assist with various tasks at LAORCA events. These tasks include event setup, registration, and crowd management. These roles are crucial for ensuring the smooth operation of the events. To learn more, please sign up on our volunteer page at www.laorca.org.

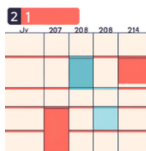
Support LAORCA



LAORCA accepts donations of any size. When you make a donation of \$25 or greater you qualify for the LAORCA Bronze 'Excelsior' Challenge Coin. When you make a donation of \$50 or greater, you qualify for the LAORCA Silver 'Emeritus' Challenge Coin. Venmo @LAORCA or email President@laorca.org for ways to support.

Upcoming LAORCA Events

- LAORCA Conference October 15, 2025



Upcoming ORCA Events

- ORCA Western Alliance Conference Sept 10th through 13th

