



ALLIANCE
for CONSUMERS

CONSUMER CALL TO ACTION

February 5, 2024

Crime feels like it is everywhere. A [record number](#) of people are too frightened to walk their neighborhood streets at night or visit local parks for fear of becoming a violent statistic. In cities like Chicago it is all too common for pedestrians to be targeted by [waves of armed robberies, some minutes apart](#). And our nation's capital [closed out 2023 with almost 1,000 carjackings](#), nearly double what we saw just the year before.

Crime is a major consumer issue. It is hard to get excited about shopping with your family when staring down the threat of carjackings, muggings, [watching shoplifters light the store on fire](#), or [seeing a car blow through the storefront as part of a smash-and-grab assault](#). And even for those consumers who are brave enough to venture out, things are far from well, [as a growing number of storefronts are empty](#).

This whole mess lies at the feet of misguided public officials, especially in our biggest cities, who have placed ideology above commonsense and continued with soft-on-crime policies that traffic under names like “Defund the Police,” “[Progressive Policing](#),” and “[reclassification](#).”

Nonetheless, it is crucial that you not abandon your customers by playing into the hands of these public officials. Do not help them downplay the crimes that are day in and day out affecting everyday consumers in your stores.

Too many crimes go unreported. And that includes crimes that happen in your stores.

When you fail to report theft, robbery, and other crimes, it plays into the hands of the officials who have set our cities ablaze; it empowers those officials to downplay the crime we see all around us as they blithely point to statistics that blatantly underreport what is happening.

Do not abandon your customers like this. Do not help the officials who are at fault.

You must do more to report crime. Improving your reporting will help law enforcement and elected officials quantify the problem. Sound crime data informs law enforcement funding and productive prosecutions. It helps prosecutors obtain the penalties these crimes require. And it does right by the consumers who are subjected to the lawlessness.

Sound crime data and a continued drumbeat of accurate crime statistics also help consumers and voters hold officials accountable. This is the only way to put proper pressure on public officials to do better and to stop the various industry critics who deny there is a problem.

At Alliance For Consumers, we believe everyday consumers deserve better than what we are currently seeing.



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We have been calling out the public officials who are at the heart of this problem, sounding the alarm about how crime matters to consumers and why it needs to be addressed.

We want nothing more than more stores open in more places with less crime.

But we need help. We need you to pick the side of consumers, and not play into the hands of the people who set this problem in motion.

We are calling on you to hold the line, report the crime, and help us fight for consumers.

Sincerely,

O.H. Skinner
Executive Director
Alliance For Consumers