

TO: Municipality of Anchorage Assembly
Mayor Mark Begich

FROM: Susan Klein, President, University Area Community Council

SUBJECT: AO 2008-86: Ordinance changing minimum criminal shoplifting values

DATE: August 6, 2008

The University Area Community Council Executive Board opposes amending sections 8.75.160 and 8.15.010. Though time consuming for legal authorities, retailers are entitled to protection from theft. It is estimated 13 billion dollars in merchandise is shoplifted from retailers. The cost of this crime is passed on to honest citizens of the community.

This ordinance gives the green light to shoplifters of all walks of life. Shoplifting is a crime. Raising the threshold will only increase such illegal behavior.

Instead of raising the threshold, raise the fine, or post the picture of convicted shoplifters on store fronts or municipal web page.

We ask this ordinance not be passed in the interests of the community of Anchorage.

Signed:

Susan Klein, President UACC