

**CITY OF TEMECULA  
AGENDA REPORT**

**TO:** City Manager/City Council

**FROM:** Randi Johl, Director of Legislative Affairs/City Clerk

**DATE:** April 8, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Receive Presentation Regarding Mail Theft Legislative Efforts and Consider Regional Approach to the Same (At the Request of Council Member Rahn)

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**PREPARED BY:** Randi Johl, Director of Legislative Affairs/City Clerk

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the City Council receive a presentation regarding mail theft legislative efforts and consider a regional approach to the same.

**BACKGROUND:** On March 25, 2025, the City Council unanimously approved the placement of this item on the agenda at the request of Council Member Rahn. With the rise in mail theft across the nation, several local and state jurisdictions have engaged in efforts to combat the same. Existing law addresses mail theft as a crime. Copies of Penal Code Sections 530.5 and 666.1 and 18 USC 1708 are attached. Other laws may also apply (identity theft, petty theft, stolen property, etc.)

The relevant portion of Penal Code Section 530.5(e) states that *“Every person who commits mail theft, as defined in Section 1708 of Title 18 of the United States Code, is guilty of a public offense, and upon conviction therefor shall be punished by a fine, by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed one year, or by both a fine and imprisonment.”*

The relevant portion of 18 USC 1708 states that *“Whoever steals, takes, or abstracts, or by fraud or deception obtains, or attempts so to obtain, from or out of any mail, post office, or station thereof, letterbox, mail receptacle, or any mail route or other authorized depository for mail matter, or from a letter or mail carrier, any letter, postal card, package, bag, or mail, or abstracts or removes from any such letter, package, bag, or mail, any article or thing contained therein, or secretes, embezzles, or destroys any such letter, postal card, package, bag, or mail, or any article or thing contained therein, Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.”*

The City of Temecula and the Riverside Sheriff’s Office have both provided resources to the community to raise awareness of the issue and promote mail theft prevention. Detailed information can be found on both websites - <https://temeculaca.gov/1622/Mail-TheftVandalismTampering> and <https://www.riversidesheriff.org/398/Mail-Theft>. In addition, the

United States Postal Inspection Service and the Riverside Sheriff's Office recently entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop a cooperative effort between local, state and federal agencies charged with the investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses involving mail theft and other crimes. The City also continues to have conversations with local stakeholders, including RSO and the Post Master, to find solutions to challenges related to post office box replacement, lock and key adjustments, etc.

It is recommended that the City Council discuss the matter and provide staff general direction regarding the same.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Penal Code Section 530.5
2. Penal Code Section 666.1
3. United States Code, Title 18, Section 1708