

## ‘Holistic approach’ needed to fight Organized Retail Crime

June 9, 2014

by: Amy Canfield [Excerpt from [www.securitydirectornews.com](http://www.securitydirectornews.com)]

LOS ANGELES—There is no single weapon to combat the epidemic of organized retail crime that costs U.S. retailers at least \$30 billion a year, says Capt. Bill Williams of the Los Angeles Police Department.

“Not one thing is going to do the job. We’re not going to be able to arrest our way out of this,” Williams, told Security Director News.

Enacting targeted Organized Retail Crime (ORC) laws, educating retailers and prosecutors, purposeful store design, and technology all need to be part of a “holistic approach,” he said.

LAAORCA was founded because “we knew ORC was so big—not one retailer could handle it on his own. A synergy of partners is what we need to deal with it, to whittle away at it and make [ORC groups] go elsewhere,” Williams said.

The National Retail Federation has said that “joining forces with multiple law enforcement agencies, partnering with retailers and sharing their successful methods with others in the loss prevention and law enforcement community” is an important tool against ORC.

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  - Save you time and inconvenience.
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Hardened, violent, criminals are getting involved, said the 35-year L.A.P.D. veteran. “The return on investment is much better for them,” he said

But it is LAAORCA, with its real-time reporting system for members, its meetings every six weeks and its annual conference that draws people from across the country that are most important, he said.

Sharing information and best practices among retailers, law enforcement, prosecutors and legislators is the right approach to fighting ORC, he said.

## New Clients

### *.Skanna Security & Investigations (Toronto)*

Skanna Security contracted Themis Security to provide security service for one of their national accounts-Staples Canada. We were able to provide security for Staples in Langford while they were undergoing renovations. The team at Skanna Security as well as Management and Loss Prevention Manager at Staples were great to work with. We look forward to providing our services to Skanna Security as well as to Staples in the future.



## Downtown Community Security Project

In our daily dealing with individuals, we can safely assume that there is some form of weapon present. Sometimes the weapon is visible and sometimes it is concealed. Regardless of the situation, we always assume that when approaching an individual(s) that there is a weapon present.

A weapon can take many forms. In one case very recently, a security officer at The Bay Centre had a cup of vomit thrown in his face for which he required immediate medical treatment.

On another occasion, one of our supervisors came across a male at a condo in Vic West cracking a whip (see picture) while being very intoxicated. This caused some concern to the other residents and we were able to confiscate the whip before anyone got hurt.



### *Statistics for September:*

Calls for service - 14  
Number of encounters - 77  
Arrests - 0  
Calls for Ambulance - 2  
Confiscated Weapons - 1