

Technology Uses for Store and Parking Lot Safety

Kentucky Retail Federation

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Retail Industry Impact on Ky Economy

Retail's Impact in Kentucky

Retail is the nation's largest private-sector employer, driving the U.S. economy and supporting **55 million jobs** in communities across the country. Here's a quick look at retail in your state.

For the full report, "The Economic Contribution of the U.S. Retail Industry," visit nrf.com/retailsimpact.

27%

of jobs in the state
are supported by the
retail industry

BY THE NUMBERS

\$56B total impact on GDP

\$14.7B direct labor income

60.8K retail establishments

427.9K direct retail employment

709.1K total jobs supported

\$24.8B direct impact on GDP

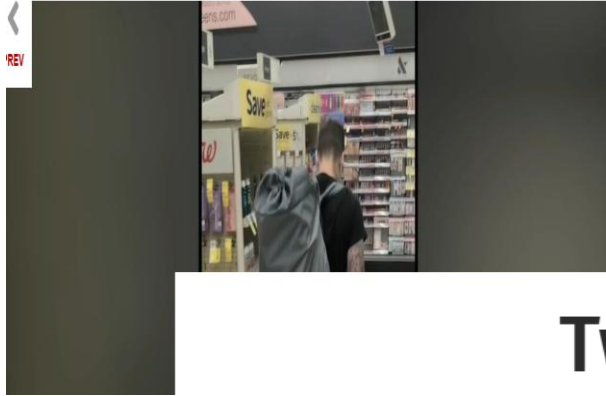
Automatic License Plate Readers



- ALPR technology is a targeted safety and security tool that helps retailers protect customers, associates, and property.
- It is not a tool for marketing, customer profiling, or generalized surveillance.

5 arrested in brazen shoplifting spree caught at Louisville Walgreens

May 1, 2025 | Updated May 2, 2025



LOCAL & REGIONAL

Illegal Polish nationals connected to multi-state theft ring arrested in Paducah



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LATEST LOCAL & REGIONAL

Two Polish nationals arrested in McCracken County in connection with multistate retail theft ring

FOX23 News at 9 p.m.

Louisville police arrest 3rd suspect after theft ring steals hundreds of thousands from Lowe's

Mar 2, 2024 | Updated Mar 2, 2024



Organized Retail Crime

- What is Organized Retail Crime (ORC)?
- According to David Johnson, Section Chief, Criminal Investigative Division at the Federal Bureau of Investigation in testimony before Congress, *What is called Organized Retail Theft or ORT by retail loss professionals, can generally be described as professional burglars, boosters, cons, thieves, fences and resellers conspiring to steal and sell retail merchandise obtained from retail establishments by theft or deception.*

ORC—Why is it on the rise?

- ORC is on the rise for two reasons:
 - Multiple sources report generally two reasons for the increase in organized retail crime.
 - First, the ease and anonymity of selling stolen goods online through third-party marketplaces, make it easy for these criminals to monetize theft.
 - Second, due to overcrowding in jails, many states have increased felony theft thresholds. This gives organized retail criminal organizations the ability to fund their organizations with lower level of risk.
 - (Source: <https://www.acams.org/en/media/document/29436>
ACAMS Detecting and Reporting the Illicit Financial Flows Tied to Organized Theft Groups (OTG) and Organized Retail Crime (ORC).)



House Bill 58 (RS 2026)

HB 58

Regulates the use of automated license plate readers (ALPRs) by private businesses, including retailers.

For retailers, the bill:

- Allows ALPRs for **parking, secured-area access, public safety, crime deterrence, and addressing auto theft.**
- Limits retention of ALPR data to **90 days**, unless a statutory exception applies.
- Generally, prohibits retailers from **selling, sharing, or transferring ALPR data**, except for specified purposes, including providing information to law enforcement for criminal investigations.

Retail safety and security

- Retailers are responsible for customer, employee, and vendor safety
- One of the most difficult areas to monitor effectively is a parking lot
- ALRP technology helps support retail investigations into criminal theft, trespassing, vandalism, violence and other crimes that may occur in or around retail property.

Survey: Consumers fear retail parking lots after dark



Zachary Russell

8/13/2026

Retail center owners and operators have room for improvement when it comes to parking lot safety.

That's according to a new survey from LiveView Technologies which revealed that more than half (52%) of American women, along with 41% of men, would avoid large,



ALPRs are an important tool in combating organized retail crime

- Organized retail crime frequently involves repeat offenders, coordinated theft rings, and vehicles used across multiple incidents and jurisdictions.
- ALPR technology can help retailers document incidents, identify patterns, and provide actionable information to law enforcement.
- The technology is particularly valuable in supporting investigations after an incident has occurred.



Private-sector use is different from government surveillance

Retail use of ALPR technology is fundamentally different from government surveillance programs.

Retailers use ALPRs for specific safety, security, asset protection, and investigative purposes related to private property.

Retail ALPR programs are not designed for real-time tracking of individuals or continuous monitoring of people's movements.

Privacy protections and safety can coexist



Effective ALPR legislation should allow legitimate safety and security uses while establishing reasonable privacy protections.



Appropriate safeguards can include:

- Defined retention periods.
- Restrictions on improper disclosure or misuse.
- Internal governance and oversight.
- Security controls around access and storage.



Policymakers do not have to choose between safety and privacy. Both objectives can be achieved simultaneously.

- Retailers use ALPR technology for safety, security, trespass enforcement, asset protection, and incident investigations.
 1. The technology should not be used for marketing, customer analytics, customer profiling, or generalized surveillance purposes.
 2. Retailer recognize that purposeful limitations are essential to maintaining public trust.

Law enforcement cooperation must remain possible

Retailers regularly work with law enforcement when crimes occur on private property.

ALPR systems can help provide evidence and support investigations.

Goals

The policy should not be unrestricted use of ALPR technology.

- The objective should be a clear framework that:
 - Allows legitimate safety and security uses.
 - Prohibits misuse.
 - Establishes accountability.
 - Protects privacy.
 - Supports crime prevention and public safety.
- Targeted private-sector use can coexist with meaningful guardrails and oversight.

Misconceptions about ORC

- ORC is not just shoplifting
- A common misconception is that the billion-dollar criminal activity is simply perpetrated by one-time shoplifters that retailers should manage on their own.
 - This not an issue of one-time shoplifters or shoplifters stealing items they cannot afford
 - ORC involves sophisticated, professional organized theft groups or criminal networks working together to steal for a profit that funds other criminal activity, such as drug and human trafficking.
 - Additionally, ORC can negatively impact consumer health and safety, especially when an unsuspecting consumer faces risks from legitimate products, such as stolen infant formula, pharmaceuticals, and other consumable products which may have been mishandled or manipulated (e.g. expiration dates) by the ORC rings who stole them for resale to consumers.
 - ORC is viewed as property crime, which tends to be at the bottom of cases investigated and prosecuted.

ORC- Misconceptions

- Organized Retail Theft is a victimless crime—
- **WRONG**--These are not victimless crimes; they jeopardize employee and customer safety and disrupt store operations. They're also not non-violent — customers, employees and community members are traumatized by these incidents. News headlines around “smash and grab” thefts at national retailers in major cities show that organized retail crime continues to be a serious problem. ORC continues to be a “gateway crime” to more serious crimes and often has ties to [transnational crime rings](#).

pro

New York (CNN Business) — Best Buy CEO Corie Barry said theft is a growing problem at the company's stores — and it is implementing added security measure to safeguard employees and shoppers.

"This is traumatizing for our associates and is unacceptable," Barry said on a call with analysts Tuesday. "We are doing everything we can to try to create [an] as safe as possible environment."

Barry said the company is implementing a number of tactics to minimize theft and protect staff and customers. For example, Best Buy is locking up more products and hiring security when appropriate.

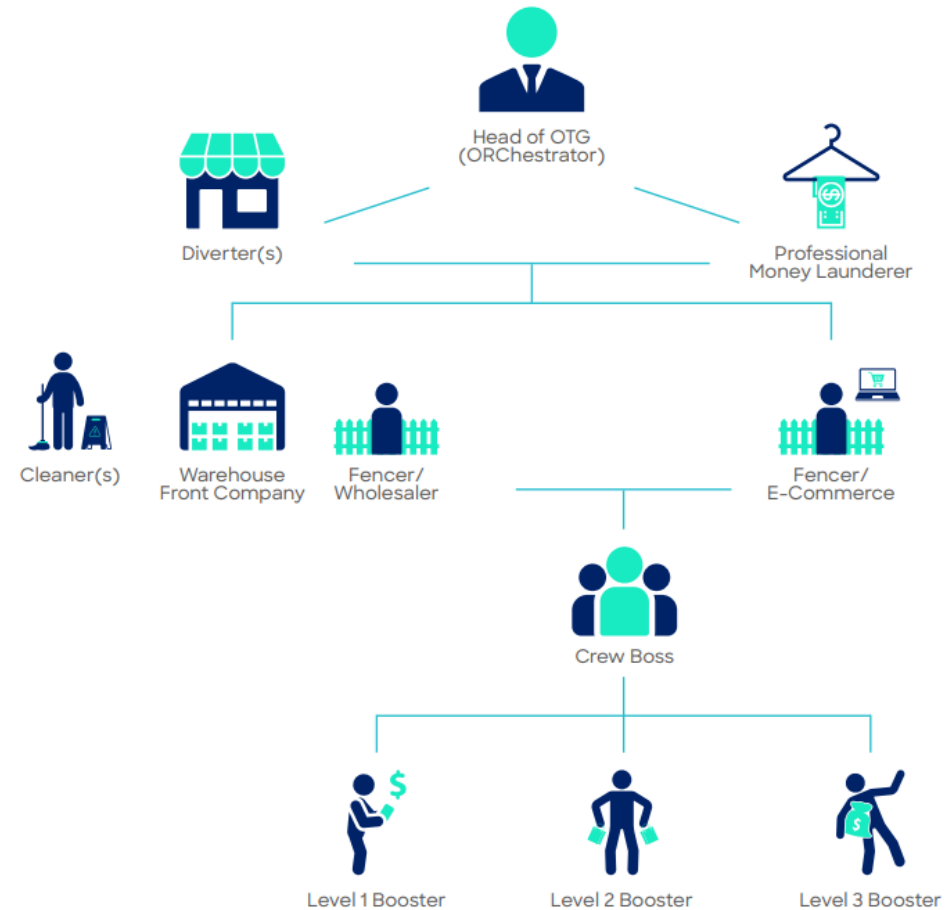
Related Article: Baby formula is getting harder to find

Barry said organized retail crime is on the rise at Best Buy. The tactic involves an organized "gang" of people who steal entire shelves of high-value products, such as electronics, to resell them for a profit.

Organized Retail Crime

How does it work?

OTG Organizational Structure



Retailers Targeted

Types of Retailer Targeted for ORC, by Ranking



Source: chart provided by Ben Dugan, President of C.L.E.A.R, the Coalition of Law Enforcement and Retail, a national public-private partnership of law enforcement professionals and retailers, working together to combat ORC.



The Impact of ORC

- In 2019, as much as \$68.9 billion worth of products were stolen from retailers, which represents about 1.5% of total retail sales.
- Retailers face increased costs for lost product, security, and labor, which leads to higher consumer prices.
- ORC can negatively impact consumers by way of receiving counterfeit or tainted products such as baby formula, over the counter medication or other consumer health products. Some of which are the most likely items to be stolen.

Organized Retail Crime

- Who does it impact?
 - **Consumers:**
 - Consumers are impacted as threat of violence grows in stores;
 - Mishandled stolen goods represent a potential health and safety threat;
 - Pay increased prices due to theft.
 - **Retail employees:** A survey of asset protection managers reported that employees are experiencing increased verbal and physical threats.
 - *EXAMPLE: In Florida, a retail theft ring targeted ULTA Beauty stores, and would pepper spray retail employees to gain access.*
 - **Federal, State, and Local government tax revenues:** It is estimated that retail theft costs federal and state governments nearly \$15 billion in personal and business tax revenues, not including lost sales taxes.

Estimated Impact of Retail Theft on Ky Economy

THE IMPACT OF ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME AND PRODUCT THEFT IN KENTUCKY

Economic Impact			
	Jobs	Wages	Output
Agriculture	-313	-\$5,235,500	-\$20,348,900
Business and Personal Services	-3,647	-\$216,454,600	-\$410,842,000
Mining	-37	-\$1,409,100	-\$12,696,900
Construction	-71	-\$4,216,000	-\$14,810,700
Finance Insurance and Real Estate	-776	-\$38,869,300	-\$279,105,800
Manufacturing General	-503	-\$36,915,200	-\$303,675,500
Retail	-1,214	-\$38,873,700	-\$103,948,200
Transportation & Communication	-562	-\$48,745,100	-\$193,650,200
Travel and Entertainment	-1,367	-\$39,775,200	-\$106,645,000
Wholesaler	-264	-\$24,137,300	-\$87,673,900
Government	-115	-\$10,647,400	-\$29,732,800
Other	-242	-\$9,973,300	-\$17,494,400
Total	-9,111	-\$475,251,700	-\$1,580,624,300

Taxes Generated: Business and Personal

Federal	-\$67,852,100
State and Local	-\$54,038,600
Total Business and Personal Taxes	-\$121,890,700

ORC Activity by Severity

	ORC Activity	Targeted Product	Retail Victims	Level of Violence	Scope	Financial Impact (per case)	Collateral Crimes
Severity ↑	National Criminal Organizations (Control Pricing and Disrupt Infrastructure)	OTC medicines Razor blades Health and beauty aids	Pharmacies, big box, and grocery stores	Low Purposely non-violent	Transnational, national interstate theft across large geographic areas (includes e-commerce)	US\$10 - 200 Million	Interstate stolen goods, ML/wire fraud, international crimes/counterfeiting, large scale financial fraud (gov), drug trafficking, human (labor) trafficking, terrorism financing
	E-Commerce High Level Sell Nationally	Tools, electronics, health and beauty aids	Home improvement, electronic stores, grocers, pharmacies, big box	Moderate	Product stolen regionally; same state or neighboring states	US\$500k- 2 Million	Interstate stolen goods, narcotics trafficking, ML/wire fraud
	E-Commerce Local Level Sell Nationally	Tools, cosmetics, clothing and accessories	Home improvement, electronic stores, grocers, pharmacies, and big box	Moderate	Product stolen and listed locally	US\$25K- 500K	Interstate stolen goods, narcotics trafficking, ML/wire fraud
	Local ORC Flea Markets, Small Illicit Businesses	Laundry detergent, hand and body lotions; personal hygiene and some clothing	Dollar stores, big box, soft lines, pharmacies	High probability for violence	Product stolen and sold locally in public forum	US\$10k- 200K	Interstate stolen goods, robbery/assault, narcotics trafficking, ML/wire fraud
	Smash and Grabs	High dollar designer goods, jewelry, clothing	High end, soft lines, jewelry, small businesses	Very violent	Local gangs	US\$5K- 100K	Robbery/assault, burglary, narcotics trafficking
	Retail Theft Personal Use	All retailers	All retailers	High potential for violence	Local homeless or drug addicted	Low dollar	Narcotics, robbery/assault

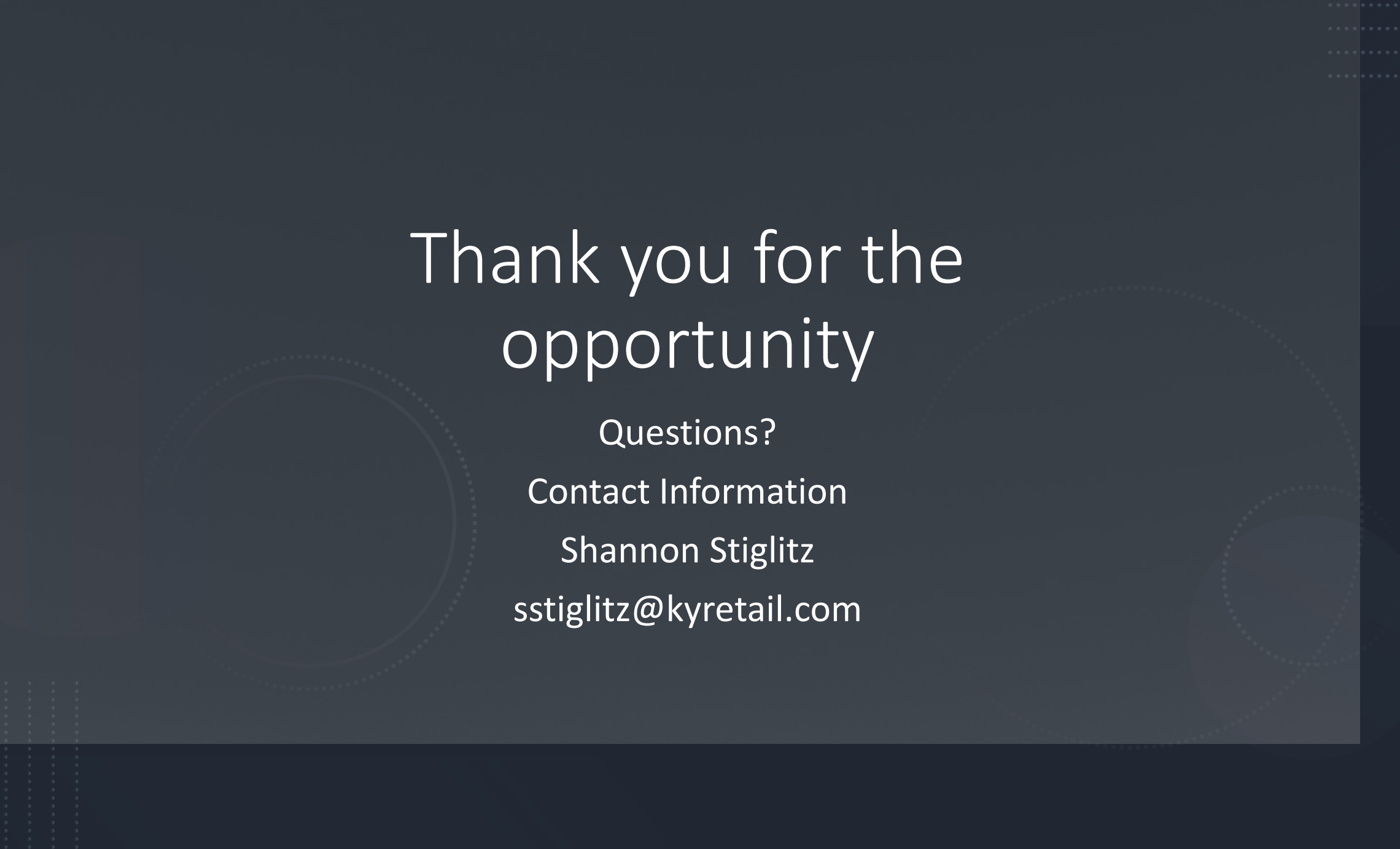
Source: chart provided by Ben Dugan, President of C.L.E.A.R.

Ky Organized Retail Crime Law

KRS 506.120:

felony.

- (3) As used in this section "criminal syndicate" means three (3) or more persons, or, in cases of merchandise theft from a retail store for the purpose of reselling the stolen merchandise, two (2) or more persons, collaborating to promote or engage in any of the criminal acts provided in subsection (4)(a) to (f) of this section on a continuing basis.



Thank you for the
opportunity

Questions?

Contact Information

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