



VIRGINIA RETAIL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION
THE VOICE OF FREE ENTERPRISE SINCE 1905

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Attorney General of Virginia Salutes VRMA

Virginia Retailers Promote Crime Prevention Manual to Help Law Enforcement

(RICHMOND) – Virginia Attorney General Jerry Kilgore saluted the Virginia Retail Merchants Association for its *Crime Prevention Manual for Virginia Businesses* at a press conference held today in Richmond. General Kilgore applauded VRMA for providing a key instrument for helping local-law enforcement fight, prevent, and lower crime in Virginia.

“This crime prevention manual offers ideas and preventative techniques that improve the security of business establishments and the safety of employees and customers,” said Attorney General of Virginia Jerry Kilgore. “All too often, law enforcement can act only when a crime has been committed. Prevention of crime relies not only on government, but also on an involved citizenry. The Virginia Retail Merchants Association has always been supportive of ways to fight crime and help their members prevent crime. For years Virginia businesses have been good neighbors in their community and good partners with government in fighting crime.”

The VRMA crime prevention manual was developed by a task force made up of several Virginia governmental offices and was assisted by several law enforcement and crime prevention agencies and organizations from Virginia and North Carolina.

“A thief only gets caught once every 48 times and the VRMA crime prevention manual provides businesses with the ways to remove or reduce the opportunity for crime at the work place,” said Laurie Peterson, president of VRMA. “What makes this publication so important is that it creates a safer environment for customers and employees, which is an added value that protects the health and vitality of the community.”

Virginia law enforcement agencies annually report the theft of \$312 million in property and currency resulting from 341,311 major crimes. However, total losses due to unreported theft soar to about two percent of gross sales for businesses across the state, which translates to as much as \$800 million annually.

The suggestions outlined in the manual have proven to be effective in preventing crimes in various business environments, which is an additional tool that helps our local-law enforcement. Included in the VRMA manual are sections on burglary, robbery, violence in the workplace, employee theft, bad checks, credit card fraud, refund fraud, shoplifting, telemarketing and computer crime. The crime prevention manual walks business owners through a process of assessing risks and offers suggestions on how to strengthen vulnerabilities that invite criminals. Visit the VRMA website: www.virginiaretail.org or call (804) 649.0789 for more information or to order your copy.

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The Virginia Retail Merchants Association was established in 1905. VRMA is a not-for-profit trade association representing retailers and other businesses to educate, inform, and serve as a resource. VRMA represents more than 7,500 retailers and merchants throughout the state of Virginia.

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