P&P Draft 04/20/22

4-22 SHOPLIFTING

4-22-1 Rules and Procedures

A. Guidelines for Handling Shoplifting Calls

- 1. The District Attorney's office has agreed to accept the employee's/security officer's work address and work phone number (instead of residence information) for the offense report, provided the merchant agrees to (a) and (b):
 - a. The merchant will be held accountable for maintaining an up-to-date home address and home phone number on the employee/security officer in case the Department needs it.
 - b. In addition, the merchant will ensure that the employee/security officer is notified to attend court.
 - c. If the merchant does not agree to (a) and (b), then the home address and home phone number is required for the offense report.
- 2. Warrantless arrests of misdemeanor shoplifting suspects are allowed without exigent circumstances, so long as the officer has probable cause to believe the suspect has committed the crime of shoplifting.
- 3. Stolen merchandise (misdemeaner or felony) will be left with the merchant to be maintained as evidence.
 - a. If the merchant elects, they may take photographs of the merchandise and then place the merchandise back in stock for sale. Note: It is recommended that the employee/security officer take the photograph in order to better maintain the chain of custody of the evidence.
 - b. If this is done, then the photograph and price tag from the merchandise will be maintained as evidence (by the merchant) to be used in court.
- 4.1. It shall be the responsibility of the officer affecting a shoplifting arrest to complete the Criminal Trespass form as outlined in the Trespass Notification SOP.