WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16, 2026

# Retail crime, evidence and the KC field

Issue 09 · Scan the front-page QR for the live brief and current source links.

ORGANIZED RETAIL CRIME / EMERGING METHODS

## Refunds triggered at the shipping scan



Illustrative 2022 parcel-packing photo; not a parcel in this case. Meanwell Packaging / Commons, CC BY 2.0; scaled.

A November 12 federal indictment alleges two men used return labels to trigger refunds without returning goods, sometimes attaching labels to empty parcels. It also alleges a website ordering glitch. DOJ describes more than $3.2 million in fraudulently refunded goods and about $2.4 million in tumblers obtained through the glitch. These are allegations, not proven losses; both men are presumed innocent.

**Field check:** Preserve order, refund trigger, carrier scan, package weight, receiving scan and product identifier separately. A carrier scan does not establish that the expected goods came back.

SOURCE DESK / NOV. 12–13

DOJ release · Indictment · KIRO report. Retailer-audited loss totals unavailable.

MISSOURI WATCH / KC REGIONAL ACTIVITY

## Cosmetics plea links Kansas and Independence stops



Illustrative 2024 skin care shelves in Brazil; not a store or event in the case. ArionStar / Commons, CC0; scaled.

On November 12, federal prosecutors reported Ionela Chiciu pleaded guilty to interstate transportation of stolen property. She admitted a multi-state cosmetics theft scheme, including May 23 stops in Prairie Village, Kansas, and Independence, Missouri, about an hour apart. Prosecutors list about $2,097 and $9,725 in goods at those stores and about $188,473 overall. Store reports and a final restitution order were unavailable.

**Field check:** Keep SKU, quantity, exact time, vehicle facts, case ID and video offset per store. Treat a cross-store link as a documented lead.

SOURCE DESK / NOV. 12

U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Missouri. Figures are from the prosecutor account.

TECHNOLOGY & EVIDENCE / BEYOND THE STORE

## Missing shipments led a retailer to investigators

A retailer fraud team noticed merchandise shipped to a Louisiana store but not received. A contracted driver pleaded guilty to theft from interstate shipments and possession of stolen goods. DOJ says investigators found more than 200 items with an estimated retail value above $30,000.

**AP/LP:** The retailer identified the discrepancy and contacted police. **Other investigators:** Sheriff's officers obtained a warrant and located items; prosecutors reported the plea. **Unknown:** The complete reconciliation, tracking record and valuation method are not public.

**Field check:** Reconcile shipped, delivered and received events separately; retain original manifests and exception records.

SOURCE DESK / NOV. 10

DOJ plea release · earlier local reporting. Earlier reporting was pre-plea.

U.S. / MISSOURI / KANSAS POLICY WATCH

## KC business-area response is a proposal

Kansas City resolution 260994, introduced November 12, asks the City Manager to evaluate business-area conditions near Watts Mill and develop a coordinated response plan. The council record shows a committee referral. It is not an enacted retail-security rule and changes no officer authority. No new statewide Missouri or Kansas retail-theft operating rule was verified for this edition.

SOURCE DESK / NOV. 12–16

Kansas City resolution and status · council meeting. Status may change.

KC METRO THEFT WATCH / PILOT

## Five-area incident check

Police-reported incidents, not charges, convictions or store shrink. Sources retrieved November 16 around 12:00–12:10 a.m. CST. Periods and agency offense labels differ; no five-area total.

| Area / incident dates | Shoplift | Other theft |
|---|---|---|
| East KC · KCPD East Patrol · Nov. 2–8 | 3 | 12 |
| Independence | Data unavailable | Not verified |
| Blue Springs | Data unavailable | Not verified |
| Lee's Summit · Nov. 2–8 | 6 | 11 |
| Raytown · Nov. 3–9 | 1 | 4 |

**East Patrol:** KCPD EPD / beats 3xx, not a municipal boundary. Twelve other larcenies comprise 7 theft-from-motor-vehicle and 5 all-other-larceny reports. Distinct report IDs; revisable.

**Lee's Summit:** Blotter entries are 6 "Stealing - Shoplift," 8 "Stealing - Other" and 3 "Stealing - Tfa." No public report IDs permit conclusive duplicate check.

**Raytown:** Unique case IDs across Nov. 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 daily PDFs. Report 26-2726 repeats and was counted once. Nov. 10 incidents and motor vehicle theft excluded.

**Independence and Blue Springs:** No separate agency-owned seven-day count was verified. Their linked LexisNexis map restricts public redistribution and automated monitoring. Requests for agency statistics are pending; no reply assumed.

**LP observation:** The three counted areas distinguish shoplifting from other theft, but "other" includes different offense types. Check the original label before comparing staffing or case patterns.

SOURCE DESK / NOV. 16

KCPD data · Lee's Summit blotter · Raytown PDFs: Nov. 4, 5, 6, 9, 10. Independence map link · Blue Springs map link · map terms.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE / PRACTICAL TAKEAWAYS

## Make an exception trail that survives handoff

Use a vendor-neutral sheet: order or manifest ID, expected item, tracking number, carrier scan, weight or count, receiving result, refund or adjustment, reviewer and escalation time. Mark unavailable fields explicitly. Keep originals and extracts separately. The return indictment and shipment plea illustrate distinct gaps; neither requires a particular vendor.

SOURCE DESK / FIELD SOURCES

Return-fraud indictment · shipment plea. This sheet is an editorial suggestion.

OFFICER'S BRIEFING

## Five actions for this week

1. Audit one return refunded at carrier acceptance; trace actual receiving.
2. Confirm who reviews shipment-to-store exceptions and escalation time.
3. Capture SKU, quantity, time, case ID and video offset before linking stores.
4. Check original offense labels before comparing Theft Watch numbers.
5. Log the holder of each original file and each agency handoff.

LOCAL CONNECTIONS / LP, AP & RETAIL CRIME

## Professional networks worth knowing

Official public pages last checked November 9; links rechecked November 16. Contact delivery has not been tested.

**Missouri ORCA:** Statewide reviewed membership. Official page

**ASIS Greater Kansas City:** Local security education and networking. Official site

**RILA-NDAA Vibrant Communities:** Metro collaboration program. Initiative

**CLEAR:** National public-private training and networking. Official site

**KCORCC:** Historical lead; current operations and contacts unverified. Corrections and licensed photos: editor@lpfieldintel.com.