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Increased Patrols Near Gwinnett Place Mall

Gwinnett Place CID Patrols Hope To Prevent Crime, Assist Shoppers

By Adam Murphy, CBS Atlanta Consumer Investigator

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GWINNETT COUNTY, Ga. — Sgt. Patrick Kovack patrolled shopping centers near Gwinnett Place Mall on Thursday. He works with the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District, also known as Gwinnett Place CID. Their mission is to help eliminate crime and keep shoppers safe in the area.

"We have had a 25 percent decrease overall in crime in the Greater Gwinnett Place area since 2007," said Joe Allen with Gwinnett Place CID.

One reason for the crime, forgetful shoppers. Kovack said he spotted a mini van full of valuables in a shopping center parking lot.

"They've got a GPS here and inside there's some sort of electronics just sitting on the seat. Somebody could just walk up, pop a window and take whatever electronics are in there and grab the GPS," said Kovack.

CBS Atlanta reporter Adam Murphy questioned the driver of the mini van about leaving his valuables in the front of his car.

"Why not actually hide it to keep crime away?" asked Murphy.

"Yeah, that's true. Sometimes you just don't pay attention until it happens," said driver Sait Kilinc.

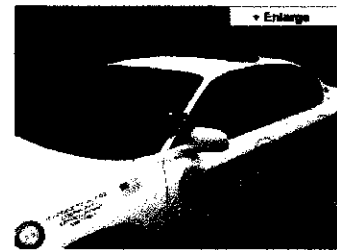
Authorities said if people have last minute shopping to do they should use common sense.

"Slow down and think. Have your key ready. If you're shopping at night find a well lit area and park there. Don't leave your packages on the front seat. Don't leave your cell phone, your GPS or laptop sitting there. You're just inviting someone to break that window and steal your belongings in a matter of moments," said Allen.

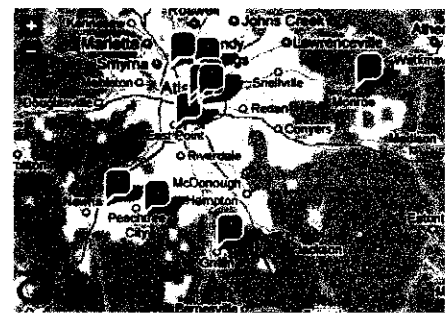
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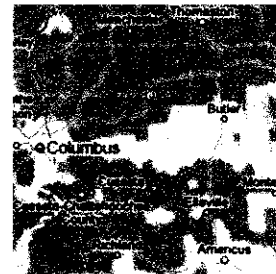


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