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## Security beefs up for Black Friday rush

By Sandra Parrish

Shoppers spending Black Friday at Gwinnett Place Mall and surrounding stores may feel a little safer.

The Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District is hiring extra security patrols to begin Thanksgiving night and running until the first of the year.

"For several years perception has been a great challenge... stats prove that this is a very safe area, crime continues to go down double digits each year as a result of Gwinnett County Police department plus our security patrols, but people like to see that patrol car out there," says C.I.D. Executive Director Joe Allen.

He tells WSB's Sandra Parrish that two patrol cars will run from 8 a.m. to midnight every day during the holiday season, with three running on Black Friday. That is in addition to mall security and Gwinnett Police.

Allen likens the security patrols to ambassadors for the district.

"They're there to assist people as they're coming out of a store, maybe the battery died or something like that... just that safety factor for people as they're coming into the area," he says.

Allen also says shoppers need not worry about lane closures on Pleasant Hill Road this week where construction is being done on the overpass.

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