



PRESS RELEASE

From Mayor Dean E. DePiero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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With holiday shopping season here....

Parma city officials and Parmatown Mall outline Holiday safety tips for shoppers

(Parma) – With the day after Thanksgiving considered as one of the busiest holiday shopping days of the Yuletide season, Parma city officials and Parmatown are offering reminders and safety tips to shoppers visiting not only Parmatown but other Cleveland area malls as well.

Parma Mayor Dean DePiero said that the Parma police department and Parmatown management are taking proactive measures to ensure that this year's holiday shopping season will be an enjoyable experience for all mall visitors.

DePiero said. "With the cooperation of mall management, the City of Parma intends to continue making Parmatown a safe place to visit and shop."

Parma police have already implemented enhanced patrols outside the mall and will continue until after the holiday season ends. Inside the mall, off duty police officers and sheriff's deputies will provide heightened security.

Frank Lanterman, Parmatown general manager, said that while the City and the mall will team up to provide even more security for shoppers, citizens should take extra precautions as well to ensure a safe holiday shopping experience.

Following are some "safety tips" to keep in mind while shopping:

- Slow down and be aware of your surroundings. Stores are crowded and could provide opportunities for pickpockets.
- Maintain the personal space around you. Don't get caught in a shuffle.
- Keep an eye on your credit cards. Be sure that they're signed and make sure that they get returned after purchases. Protect your Personal Identification Numbers.
- Be wary of strangers seeking handouts.
- Carry money in separate pockets.
- Women should use a "fanny pack" instead of a purse.

(More)

- Don't leave packages in plain view inside your vehicle.
- When leaving any mall, be prepared. Have your keys in hand before you get to your car.
- If you have any concerns, ask if mall security will escort you to your vehicle.
- If you see suspicious activity or are the victim of a crime, report it IMMEDIATELY.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the City of Parma and Parmatown.

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