

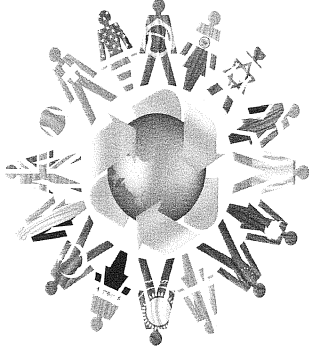
Law Enforcement Officers



It is the responsibility of security and law enforcement to:

- *Protect and serve the public.*
- *Prevent and deter crime and/or disturbances.*
- *Gather information.*
- *Investigate incidents from all aspects and to explain the situation.*
- *Respond and act in a professional manner.*
- *Enforce mall/shopping center rules of conduct .*
- *Take action to address unsafe situations.*

For group or organizational presentations of "Let's Have A Talk", contact Queen Thompson Educational Solutions, 704 333-7966 or 704 661-6568. Educationalsolut@bellsouth.net



This message is brought to you in partnership with Metrolina Partners which included :

Metrolina Shopping Mall Representatives
Metrolina Law Enforcement Officers
Charlotte and Concord NAACP
Cabarrus County Youth Advisory Council
Charlotte NAACP Legal Redress Advisories
Leary Bar Association
Mecklenburg Ministerial Associations
or
Community Organizations

This brochure is a simple guide for parents, teens and young adults about the appropriate behaviors and decision making while shopping. We encourage families to talk about the appropriate behaviors at malls, shopping centers and other public places.

An arrest is a serious matter, regardless of what age. We highly suggest that young people avoid the serious consequences of an arrest records. An arrest can follow a person for the rest of their lives, barring them from education, employment and other opportunities.

Let's Have a Talk

A Guide for Parents Teens, and Young Adults

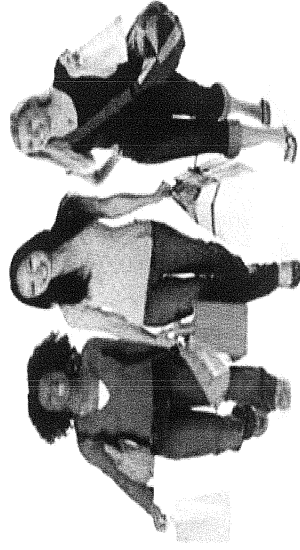


While Shopping at Malls and Other Businesses

Safe and Smart Shopping

Shopping centers are businesses that depend on retail sales. Therefore, a safe, pleasant environment must be enjoyed by all.

- So what can you do to shop safe and smart?
- *Avoid any unlawful behavior, stealing or fighting*
- *Don't deface, damage or destroy property mall or other properties.*
- *Don't block storefronts or fire -exits.*
- *Avoid walking in large groups that obstruct or inconvenience others.*
- *Don't loiter, horseplay, run, or skate.*
- *Don't use profanity or offensive language.*
- *Don't carry firearms or weapons of any kind with or without a permit.*
- *Shirts and shoes should be worn at all times.*
- *Wear proper clothing with non-offensive languages & images. Hoods should not be worn to cover the head.*



Enjoy your day, shopping

What Can Parents Do?

- Know where your teens are going and with whom they will be associating.
- Know your teen's plans/activities for the day.
- Ensure teens have safe transportation to and from activities. Agree on how they will get to and from the shopping centers and malls.
- Have an agreed time for teens to return home or set a time and location for them to meet and to be picked up from shopping.
- Discuss appropriate behavior, using good judgment, and making good decisions.



- Discuss the long term consequences of poor decisions such as stealing, fighting, being disorderly, and being uncooperative with authority, such as police and security officers.
- Make sure your teen can contact you if they need you to pick them up in case of an emergency.
- Make sure you check your teen's attire. For instance, people are not allowed to wear hoods in most malls.
- Be aware that teens under 16 are not admitted to most Movie Theatres unless accompanied by an adult.

Public Safety at Shopping Centers



Shopping centers and malls are busy places! Most shopping centers have police officers and/or security officers on site to maintain a safe shopping environment for everyone. If you are approached by a police or security officer, please remember the following:

- Stay calm and in control of your words, body, language, and emotions.
- Do not argue with officers.
- Keep your hands in view at all times.
- Do not run from or resist officers even though you may have done nothing wrong.
- Provide your identification, if requested, by the officer. Do not give false information to the officer.
- Keep in mind the safety of yourself, others, and the officers. Being uncooperative and resistant could result in criminal charges.
- Let the officers know if you wish to contact your parent (s) or guardian (s).
- If you feel that you have been wrongly accused or the situation was poorly handled, find out the appropriate course of action to take. Do not become confrontational with the officer.