

# Galleria shoplifters hit police car, run from police on foot and by car

By **Jim Herr** - October 19, 2017



*Cheektowaga Police secure a vehicle used by shoplifters outside Walden Galleria on October 19th.*

CHEEKTOWAGA – Several people are facing charges after stealing from a store in the Walden Galleria and leading Cheektowaga Police on both a vehicle pursuit and a foot chase. late Thursday afternoon.

During the 5 o'clock hour, an undercover Cheektowaga Police officer was driving on the upper parking deck near the Jack Astor's entrance to the mall and saw a group of women run out of the mall and into a car.

A law enforcement source tells Cheektowaga Chronicle that the women stole many items from the Pink store.

During their escape, the car full of women backed into the undercover officer's vehicle when he drove up to see what was happening. The women exited the car, some running away on foot, some getting into another vehicle.

The officer ran after the women through the mall parking lot towards the old parking ramp along Galleria Drive. He was able to detain one woman. Several other officers joined him and arrested several more as they ran through the parking ramp.

Another officer noticed a car fleeing the area and started a vehicle pursuit off of the mall's property. The officer chased the suspects on I-90, the Kensington Expressway, and several streets near Erie County Medical Center before the group bailed out of the vehicle on Litchfield Avenue in the city. Buffalo Police had joined the chase and assisted Cheektowaga in detaining at least one suspect.

The police impounded both vehicles.

The subject's names and exact charges were not available at the time of publication Thursday evening because they weren't processed yet. We'll be reaching out to department brass Friday morning for additional information.