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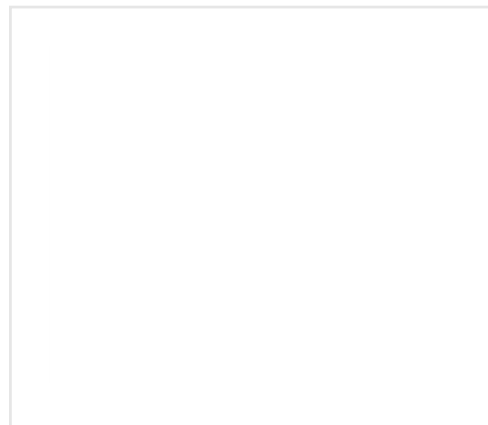
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## Security at the Walden Galleria increases

### Galleria adds more police officers

CHEEKTOWAGA, N.Y. — The Walden Galleria's owner insisted it would beef-up security in response to Wednesday night's brawls. Friday, 2 On Your Side's Kelly Dudzik and Franco Ardito took a trip to the mall to see if it's living up to that promise to keep you and your family safe.

"You'll see officers at all entrances and pretty much stationed throughout the mall, and again, increased Galleria security, as well," said Cheektowaga Police Chief David Zack on Thursday.



Cheektowaga Police told 2 On Your Side they'd have eight officers at the Walden Galleria Friday night and that normally they wouldn't have any there on December 28.

Pyramid Management Group, the mall's Syracuse-based owner, will reimburse the town for the cost of those officers being there.

2 On Your Side wanted to see if Pyramid was following through with its promise to not only increase security, but enforce its parental escort policy. We gave Pyramid a call requesting an interview and permission to bring our camera into the mall to shoot video of the security and police officers. After about ten minutes, we were told no one was in the office who was authorized to speak with us.

Within 45 minutes, someone from the Galleria called back to say he was not able to accommodate our requests. He said everything the company has to say is its statement from Thursday. So, we went to the mall without cameras.

We saw nine police officers and 13 security guards, mostly near the entrances and where the stores that have outside entrances open into the mall. We saw no problems at all.

"Certainly, Galleria wants that mall to be safe, but incidents will happen. It's just, they will. And it's how you deal with them in the aftermath," said Zack on Thursday.

If you were wondering about the movie theaters at the Galleria, Cheektowaga Police say Regal Cinemas negotiates its own deal with the department to staff off-duty police officers there. Regal pays them to be there.



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