

Western NY mall day after Christmas: 2 fights, 3 arrests, 30 ejected

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The Walden Galleria is pictured in Cheektowaga, N.Y., in this Google Maps screenshot.

286

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Fights broke out at a Western New York mall on the day after Christmas, according to multiple reports.

Cheektowaga Police told WIVB that three people were arrested at the Walden Galleria shopping center near Buffalo on Thursday night. One person was arrested for an outstanding warrant, one was arrested for larceny, and the other was arrested for forcible touching.

Cheektowaga Police Assistant Chief Michael Sliwinski told WGRZ that two fights also occurred in the Galleria mall on Thursday, also known as Boxing Day. 30 people were ejected for disorderly conduct; no injuries were reported.

Sliwinski said there were a dozen uniformed police officers walking inside the mall on Thursday, partly due to increased traffic over the holiday week. Security was also increased in response to similar incidents at the Walden Galleria last year; videos went viral showing fights on Dec. 26, 2018, and several people were arrested then as well.

"It never looks good on TV when you see 50 kids running in one direction," Sliwinski told WGRZ. "Police presence is always somewhat of a deterrent. It doesn't stop everything, as evidenced last year."

According to WGRZ, the mall is paying for the added security, which will diminish gradually as New Year's Day approaches.

The incident comes days after a brawl broke out at another Upstate New York mall.

Video shows close to a dozen people fighting inside a Beef Jerky Outlet store at the Crossgates Mall near Albany on Christmas Eve. Punches are thrown, wall displays are knocked down, and a table is overturned. Police are investigating.