



## **News from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office**

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All news releases may be viewed at [www.shelby-sheriff.org](http://www.shelby-sheriff.org) in the Press Releases Listing

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### **Deputies Increase Patrols for Holiday Shoppers**

Shelby County Sheriff's Deputies are stepping up their efforts to help ensure the safety of shoppers during the holiday season through "*Operation: Jingle Bells.*"

"We're now in the busiest time of the year for holiday shopping. Our Deputies will be out in force throughout Shelby County. We know that gift-buying also generates a rise in criminal activity. As a result, we want to do all we can to help keep this holiday season as safe as possible," said Shelby County Sheriff Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

During the next few weeks, full-time and reserve Deputies will be patrolling the parking lots at shopping centers and retail malls.

The Sheriff's Office Patrol and Crime Prevention Bureaus offer these tips to help ensure a safe holiday season:

- Leave purses at home or place them in the trunk of your vehicle before you leave
- Be aware of your surroundings while walking to and from your vehicle
- Avoid shopping alone

(More)

(Shopping Tips Continued)

- Park your vehicle in well lit areas
- Do not count money while standing at an ATM machine or show lots of cash in the check-out line
- Remove cell phones, lap top computers, briefcases and other items inside your vehicle
- Secure packages in the trunk or other part of the vehicle where they cannot be seen
- If a robber wants your wallet or purse, hand it over to prevent possible injury
- Should you be involved in a minor vehicle crash, do not exit the vehicle until a Deputy arrives to prevent a “bump and rob” scheme
- Be aware of internet scams which offer cash giveaways or ask for personal information about your bank account or credit cards-report any suspicious messages to law enforcement agencies

A *video* about holiday shopping safety may be viewed at the Sheriff’s Office website [www.shelby-sheriff.org](http://www.shelby-sheriff.org) Go to “Divisions” then “Crime Prevention” to watch “Holiday Crime Prevention Tips.” The direct link to the video is: [www.shelby-sheriff.org/divisions/hcptips.htm](http://www.shelby-sheriff.org/divisions/hcptips.htm)

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