



NEW BERN POLICE DEPARTMENT
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City of New Bern

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New Bern, North Carolina

Three Centuries of North Carolina Heritage

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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NEW BERN POLICE LAUNCH HOLIDAY TASK FORCE

The New Bern Police Department has launched its Holiday Task Force for the 14th year in a row. The goal of the Holiday Task Force is to deter crime, as well as reduce opportunities to commit crimes in areas of New Bern most frequented by shoppers. Criminal activity, like shoplifting and larceny from a motor vehicle, traditionally increases during the holiday season.

Uniformed and plain clothed officers, will kicked off patrol of high-volume shopping areas in New Bern on Friday November 27. The task force will remain on patrol through New Year's Day. Officers will be monitoring activity from marked and unmarked units, including plain white vans.

The Holiday Task Force will provide an increased police presence, but there are numerous ways in which shoppers can keep themselves safe:

HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS:

- **Always secure your vehicle** – When leaving your vehicle to go shopping, always remember to lock your doors. An unsecured vehicle is just like an invitation to a criminal.
- **Place packages in trunk or out of view** - Many shoppers bring purchases back to their vehicle and return to the store. Don't leave items in plain view; secure them in a trunk, if available, or hidden inside the vehicle.
- **Park in well-lit areas** – At night, always park in well-lit areas of the parking lot.
- **Always report suspicious activity** – If you see someone or something suspicious, it's always best to report it. Contact mall/store security or call 9-1-1 to report activity.

The New Bern Police Department is committed to Community Policing. Citizens are encouraged to become a **“Partner in Policing,”** by reporting suspected illegal activity to the New Bern Police Department's **TIPS** line at **(252) 636-5034** or the Craven County Crime Stoppers line at 633-5141.

For additional information, please contact Beth Stevenson, Public Information Officer at the New Bern Police Department at (252) 672-4211.

Frank Palombo, Chief of Police

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