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Contact: Jen Sorgenfrei; 419-467-1876
City of Toledo

Deputy Chief Mike Murphy 419-245-3348
Toledo Police Department

Sara Young; 419-473-3317
Westfield Franklin Park

Mayor, Police Department and Westfield continue to work together for long-term solutions

Westfield Franklin Park officials this week reached out to the Mayor's office and the Toledo Police Department to examine both short-term changes and long-term solutions to ensure safety and well being of the patrons and vendors at the shopping center following Saturday's incident of youth violence.

There have been ongoing communications between Westfield officials, TPD and the Mayor's office to review security plans at the shopping center. Although ongoing security measures include uniformed and plain clothes personnel, foot and vehicle patrols, electronic surveillance, and hiring off-duty police officers, as a matter of policy, Westfield does not make public details of security deployment, levels, or methods. They have worked with the city to take additional security measures and a zero tolerance policy when it comes to violations of the mall's Code of Conduct.

"Youth violence is not just an issue for a shopping center to deal with. It is an important concern for the community as a whole," said Toledo Police Chief Michael Navarre.

Safety Director Shirley Green added, "We will continue to work with Westfield in their goal to provide a safe, welcoming and enjoyable environment for our community. This includes TPD presence in and around the center, making off duty officers available for project work and ongoing communication with Westfield."

The city of Toledo has an existing curfew ordinance and Westfield has and continues to support enforcement of that policy. “Although the possibility of a Parental Escort Policy, separate from and in addition to the existing city curfew ordinance is under discussion and consideration, a final decision will not be made at this time. We are working towards long-term solutions and further study is required to better understand the logistics, implementation, enforcement protocols and consequences of such a policy. This will be done in conjunction with city officials and the Toledo Police Department,” stated Erika Williams, Westfield Franklin Park General Manager.

“Westfield Franklin Park contributes to both the city and county tax bases and has acted as a committed community partner and responsible corporate citizen. The city will continue to work with Westfield to ensure the safety and well-being of its patrons and vendors – as we work to do with all businesses in the community,” Mayor Bell said. “Parents also need to take some responsibility to ensure that their kids are acting in an appropriate, positive and respectful manner at the mall. If the city is asked to respond to an incident, we will have zero tolerance for the type of behavior that was exhibited last weekend.”

Westfield officials continue with the Toledo Police Department to monitor and evaluate short and long term security protocols. All are committed to keeping the shopping center safe.

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