



L. H. Deaton
Assistant Chief

Columbus Police Department

P.O. Box 1866 – 510 Tenth Street
Columbus, Georgia 31902-1866

Stoney Mathis
Chief of Police



R. L. Graham
Assistant Chief

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2026

Media Contact: **Brittany Santiago**
706-225-4462
Twanna Crayton
706-225-4519

CPD Shoplifting Initiative Targets Retail Theft

The Columbus Police Department's Property Crimes Unit launched a shoplifting initiative in June 2026 to address retail theft and build stronger working relationships with local retailers. The effort comes ahead of the holiday shopping season, when stores often see an increase in theft.

So far this year, CPD has received approximately 630 shoplifting reports. Since June, investigators have held several meetings with local retailers and loss prevention teams. On July 7, 2026, more than 45 asset protection and loss prevention representatives from more than 20 stores attended. Another meeting on August 25, 2026 drew more than 40 participants in person and online.

CPD also assigned investigators specifically to shoplifting cases. Since the initiative began:

- 152 cases assigned
- 63 cases cleared
- 37 subjects arrested
- 58 outstanding arrest warrants
- 41% current clearance rate

If cases tied to outstanding warrants are included, 91 cases have been cleared or have warrants issued, bringing that rate to about 72%.

These numbers do not include arrests made by Patrol officers.

On July 28, 2026, investigators conducted a warrant roundup that resulted in seven arrests and cleared nine cases.

On August 8 and 9, 2026, investigators conducted an undercover detail at a local retail store and arrested one person caught stealing merchandise.

Investigators are also using the CPD Property Crimes Unit Facebook page to help identify theft suspects from surveillance images.



L. H. Deaton
Assistant Chief

Columbus Police Department

P.O. Box 1866 – 510 Tenth Street
Columbus, Georgia 31902-1866

Stoney Mathis
Chief of Police



R. L. Graham
Assistant Chief

As the holidays approach, CPD will continue working with local retailers to address repeat offenders and reduce shoplifting across Columbus.

A video recap of the initiative is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/43v9fzc9>

###

