

SUBJECT: Atlanta Police Department

WTVM

Atlanta police gain access to 235 security cams near major mall

By: Vince Sims

ATLANTA (CBS46) -

Atlanta police are gaining access to 235 additional security cameras around Lenox Square and Phipps Plaza in Buckhead.

"It's a public area," shopper Philip Lee said. "It's an area people need to feel secure. So if it will help, it's fine with me."

This is happening through a partnership with Atlanta police and Simon Properties, the company that own malls in the area.

Dave Wilkinson with the Atlanta Police Foundation explains part of what brought this union together.

"After the most recent home invasions and the crime uptick we saw in Buckhead, a lot of the residents came together and ultimately asked the question, how can we help protect the neighborhoods more than we already are," Wilkinson said.

Lenox Square General Manager Robin Suggs said they now have enhanced safety and security around their properties thanks to this joint venture.

The whole camera network system is called Operation Shield. About 5,700 hundred cameras are already online throughout the city and feed into the Atlanta police video integration system.

Wilkinson explained how it works.

"The closest four cameras automatically populate the screen in the command center," Wilkinson said. "So in other words, while you are on the phone calling 911, the Atlanta Police Department is looking at the four closest cameras."

The business that owns the cameras will continue to pay maintenance and upkeep that won't cost the city. Of the 5,700 cameras in operation, the city only owns 200 of them.

Operation Shield hopes to have a network of 10,000 cameras linked in by 2017.

<http://www.wtvm.com/story/30081449/atlanta-police-gain-access-to-235-buckhead-security-cameras>