



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Kitsap Mall

Sheriff's Community Information Office

Silverdale, Wash. -- The latest "store front" in the Kitsap Mall will be formally placed into commission when Kitsap County Sheriff Steve Boyer, County Commissioner Josh Brown and Patrol Chief Gary Simpson ceremonially cut a piece of yellow-colored "**Sheriff's Line – Do Not Cross**" crime scene tape to inaugurate a new Sheriff's Office Community Information Center.

The ceremony is scheduled for 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 24. The public is invited.

"This is part of a community education and outreach program that's been in the planning stages for several years," said Sheriff Boyer. "People usually don't make a point of visiting the county courthouse or any of the sheriff's offices unless they have business to conduct. But they do visit the mall in significant numbers. This endeavor allows the sheriff's office to provide an additional customer service opportunity."

The concept for the sheriff's store front office, then the formal plan, was negotiated and a contract was signed by the sheriff's office, Kitsap Mall management and the mall's parent corporation, the Macerich Company.

In the agreement, the sheriff's office will lease the store front for an honorary lease fee. To utilize the location, the sheriff's office was responsible for arranging for labor and materials to upgrade the interior space. Total costs to the sheriff's office for this project were approximately \$37,000. This figure is about one-third of what the cost would have been without significant donations and assistance provided by **Armstrong Homes of Bremerton** and the many volunteers who donated their time and expertise. Without them, this project would not have been possible.

The new sheriff's community information center will be open, as much as practical, during regular mall hours, and will serve as an extension of the sheriff's office. The public will be able to make inquiries, request copies of police / collision reports and file certain types of complaint reports. The space will be manned primarily by the sheriff's community resource (crime prevention) officer, a sheriff's support specialist and volunteers.

The sheriff's office will partner with other public safety agencies to use this new location for sharing public safety messages, including: Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington State Patrol, American Red Cross, Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management, Crime Victim Assistance Center, Washington State Traffic Safety Commission, and others.

Sheriff's patrol deputies also will be able to work out of this office when investigating criminal / civil complaints involving retail facilities or incidents in the mall.

The new sheriff's community information center is located in the retail corridor just inside the mall's west entrance, between Kay Jewelers and Master Cuts.

Sheriff's Kitsap Mall Community Information Center telephone number: (360) 692-7746.

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