

Safety Report – 12/8/16

Emailed update provided by Officer Simcox

“On 11/20, and 11/23 - 11/25, I spent approximately 6 hours a shift in the Oakland Mills Village Center parking lot across from the liquor store, and patrolling the surrounding area on my bike or patrol car. My presence helped deter people from loitering, but unfortunately we do not have enough man power to have a vehicle in the Oakland Mills Village Center all day.

As far as loitering goes, there is no law or county code violation against it. Therefore, if someone is just hanging out in the village center, the police have no legal power to force them to leave. If an agent of the Oakland Mills Village Center calls the police, for example a tenant or a security guard, because they don't want someone hanging out there, then we have a legal reason to ask them to leave, and this usually this solves the problem.

If a subject still will not leave, then an agent of the property has to ask that person in the presence of the police, to leave. If the subject still refuses to leave, then the police can make an arrest for trespassing. We understand that many agents of the property do not want to tell someone to leave in fear of retaliation, so we try to avoid this when it makes someone feel uncomfortable.

I spoke to the property manager earlier last week about hiring more aggressive security guards. He seems to be unsatisfied with the service the current security guards are providing, this should help with the loitering problem a lot. We also discussed the banning process. When someone is banned from the property, we can arrest them as soon as they walk onto the village center grounds.”