



HENRICO POLICE

NEWS RELEASE

Eric D. English, Chief of Police



CONTACT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2026

[Henrico Police Reviews Videos from Large Teen Gathering at Mall](#)

Update 2:

(Henrico County, Va.) – Henrico Police continues to work with security at Short Pump Town Center to review video footage of Saturday night’s “takeover event.”

Since the initial call for service, personnel within the Henrico County Police Division have coordinated with mall security to review video surveillance from the property, reviewed reports filed in connection with the gathering, and talked with officers who were on site in a patrol and off-duty capacity.

Henrico Police has confirmed one fight occurred between two individuals; however, no report was filed because the two teens ran away. While the initial call for service around 7:10 p.m. was for a large gathering of juveniles who may have been fighting in front of a store, Henrico Police have not been able to confirm that happened.

"If there is video out there that you need us to look at or want us to be aware of, we encourage people to send us the videos," said **Henrico Chief of Police Eric D. English**.

Additionally, during the initial call, Henrico Police received reports of possible gunshots on the property. This prompted an increased police presence as units responded to investigate; the report turned out to be false.

"Whenever we receive a report of shots fired, our officers respond immediately to assess the situation and identify any potential threat," English said. "Our top priority that night was to ensure the safety of everyone on the property, including patrons and employees."

Henrico Police has determined there were several dozen middle to high school aged children on property at Short Pump Town Center in connection with a “takeover event” which was publicized on social media. The Division was not aware of the “event” until after the 7 p.m. call for service. However, officers working off-duty and mall security during the early evening hours noted the increased presence of teens on the property.

Office of Public Affairs

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"We try to do our best to monitor social media," English said. "If we do see something that we feel might have a chance to create some issues, we try to follow up and be prepared prior to the event taking place. If you see something suspicious, please contact us with those details."

Currently, no arrests or charges have been filed in connection with this gathering.

"From what we've seen thus far, there was nothing illegal that was taking place at the mall," English said.

However, one teen was arrested and charged in connection with an unrelated shoplifting incident at Dick's Sporting Goods around 5:45 p.m.

"We encourage community members to follow our website and official social media platforms for updates," English said. "Our goal is to share information that has been verified and is both accurate and timely. While information can spread quickly, we remain committed to ensuring what we provide to the public is confirmed and reliable."

The Henrico County Police Division has social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, X, Threads, Nextdoor, YouTube, and Ring-Neighbors. Information about various incidents is posted on nearly all of those social media pages. Additionally, members of public can view any news releases via the [Henrico.gov/police](https://henrico.gov/police) website.

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Update 1 (03.15.26):

(Henrico County, Va.) – Henrico Police continues to investigate the circumstances surrounding a large gathering of teens at Short Pump Town Center Saturday evening.

On Saturday, March 14, 2026, around 7:10 p.m., Henrico Police was notified by mall security at Short Pump Town Center (11800 W. Broad Street) about a large gathering of juveniles in front of one of the stores. Initial reports indicated some of the teens may have been fighting. As mall security and Henrico Police Officers, who were already on property, approached the group, the juveniles took off running throughout the mall.

As additional Henrico Police Officers were arriving on scene, there were reports of possible gunshots heard on the property; this turned out to be false but caused many of the juveniles to continue running throughout the mall and into the roadways surrounding the property, including across all lanes of W. Broad Street. There were no reported injuries involved.

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The preliminary investigation indicates there was a social media post for a “takeover event” which drew a large crowd of middle to high school age children to the property in the early evening hours. Several dozen teens were reported gathering in groups throughout the mall and running to different areas on the property. These teens appear to have been dropped off at Short Pump Town Center and left unsupervised. At this time, Henrico Police continues to work with mall security to investigate the situation.

Please note, there were already a handful of Henrico Police Officers on property at the mall, working in a patrol and off-duty capacity from a previous shoplifting incident from Dick’s Sporting Goods that occurred around 5:47 p.m. One juvenile male was arrested and taken into custody. Petitions of shoplifting and obstruction of justice were obtained against him.

Henrico Police encourages parents and guardians to stay informed about where their children are going and what they are doing. Parents and caregivers play a key role in helping youth make responsible choices when they are unsupervised. Large “takeover events” are a growing nationwide trend, and community awareness is key to ensuring everyone remains safe.

Anyone with further information about this situation is asked to email police@henrico.gov.

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Watch Commander Release (03.14.26)

(Henrico County, Va.) – On March 14th, at 7:11pm, Henrico Police responded to reports of a large group of patrons actively fighting at 11800 W. Broad Street. Officer arrived on scene and assisted with regaining order to the mall. There were initial reports of gunshots however it is confirmed that there were no shots fired. At this time, the mall has decided to close early. Henrico Police is assisting with traffic and crowd control. There are no reports of injuries.

Anyone who may have information they think could be helpful are encouraged to contact Henrico County Police at (804) 501-5000, Crime Stoppers at (804) 780-1000, or submit the information through the P3Tips application on their mobile device. Information submitted through Crime Stoppers and the P3Tips application can be completed anonymously.

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