



## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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# Press Release

## DA Morrissey, Mayor Sullivan and Chief Frazier Meet with Plaza merchants on retail crime



(Right image) Norfolk DA Michael Morrissey, standing at right, met with more than 65 merchants and security personnel at South Shore Plaza last week to talk about retail crime and how they can work with police and prosecutors to fight retail crime.

(Left image) Police Chief Paul Frazier, left, Norfolk DA Michael Morrissey, center, and Mayor Joseph Sullivan spoke following a seminar on combating shoplifting and other retail crime delivered to merchants and security personnel at South Shore Plaza last week.



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Norfolk DA Michael Morrissey's message to the merchants and security personnel at South Shore Plaza was simple last week: You get us better evidence faster, and we can get you better results in shoplifting and other retail crime cases -- and get them faster.

"We see hundreds of these cases a year, not just from the Plaza but from malls and retail outlets all across the county," Morrissey said. "The better the coordination between the staff at the victim establishments and law enforcement, the more we can do to make the price of doing honest business go down in Norfolk County, and the price of doing criminal business go up."

South Shore Plaza was the first of three seminars for merchants and store loss prevention personnel that Morrissey has planned at major retail areas in Norfolk County. The 8:30 a.m. May 26 meeting drew 65 store management and security personnel South Shore Plaza General Manager Judy Tullius and Alan J. Piccirilli, site security director for AlliedBarton Security Services. Braintree Mayor Joseph Sullivan, Police Chief Paul Frazier, Deputy Chief Russell Jenkins joined Morrissey at the event.

Morrissey also brought prosecuting attorney Greg Connor, chief of his white collar crime prosecution, and Assistant District Attorney Adam Lally, the supervisor at the Quincy District Court, where cases from Braintree are prosecuted. The District Attorney provided and discussed restitution forms, impact statement procedures and a simple set of instructions on what prosecutors need from them in the days after a crime has occurred to make the cases move quickly and successfully.

"A retail manager is not supposed to be well versed in the Massachusetts Rules of Evidence. That is not their job, but it is our job, and we can help them through the process and make these prosecutions move, and move in the right directions," District Attorney Morrissey said.

Industry groups estimate that \$13 Billion worth of goods are shoplifted from American retail stores every year equivalent to \$35 million a day. "Every dollar that is lost to shoplifting becomes a dollar that comes out of the honest consumer's pocket. Those dollars belong where they are." Massachusetts lost \$34 million in tax revenue due to thefts last year.

"Major retail areas locate near highways to give easy access to customers, but that also provides easy access to criminals who want to target and run. We see substantial shoplifting cases out of these areas and the defendants have home addresses as far away as New York City, suggesting that these are target areas for organized, coordinated shoplifting rings," District Attorney Morrissey said. "We want an organized and coordinated system in place to combat that."

Morrissey credited Chief Frazier and the Town of Braintree for their coordinated effort to reduce mall crimes and be responsive to the merchants located there. "Braintree has a big role and police presence at the Plaza, and we believe we can build on their hard work to get better results," Morrissey said.