

# THE T3AMS PROJECT

## You can help young people succeed and make the mall a safer place

The Theft 3 and Mall Safety (T3AMS) project is a pilot project designed to lower the number of youth theft cases and charges in Tukwila at the Westfield Southcenter Mall. Working together, businesses, mall security, the Tukwila Police Department, and the T3AMS project partners encourage positive behavior and connect young people who make the mistake of shoplifting to services and opportunities. **Businesses play an essential role in helping youth get the necessary support and resources to make healthy changes in their lives. When you refer young people to T3AMS, you help them succeed and make the mall a safer place.**

### Businesses can make direct referrals to T3AMS services:



job training



mentoring



employment  
assistance



academic  
support



case  
management

## A new approach to mall safety

In 2014, the Tukwila Police Department had one of the highest numbers of misdemeanor theft cases for youth ages 17 and under, with 350 theft cases coming from the department. In 2016, King County, in collaboration with community partners, began discussing possible approaches to address this apparent need and lower the number of youth theft cases and charges in Tukwila.

The T3AMS project provides immediate, on-site support to young people who make the mistake of shoplifting, along with referrals to ongoing services and opportunities. Providing these services breaks the harmful cycle of arrest and prosecution, and reduces costs for businesses related to theft and disruption.

T3AMS is a collaboration between multiple community partners, supported by funding from King County's Best Starts for Kids initiative.

## To make a referral contact Glover EmpowerMentoring Program

[www.gempowermentor.org](http://www.gempowermentor.org) / [gempowermentoring@gmail.com](mailto:gempowermentoring@gmail.com)

Tukwila Police Community Resource Center (on-site)

# How it works

**Businesses, mall security, Tukwila Police officers, and providers reach out to youth who need support and make the mall a safer place.** Glover Empower Mentoring (GEM) provides immediate services and support to young people at an on-site office. After an initial meeting, GEM connects young people to ongoing services like mentoring, job training, and academic support provided by T3AMS project partners.

Outreach staff at the mall build relationships and **promote positive behavior** for young people who frequent the mall.

**T3AMS partners work together to support young people.**

Providers **proactively intervene** in situations where there is a risk of violence or aggression, and **help youth find the support they need.**

When shoplifting or other low level offenses occur, **police officers, mall security, and businesses send these cases to GEM's on-site office.**

**GEM providers immediately meet with youth** to learn about their needs and help them write an apology letter if appropriate.

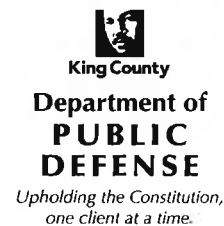
Providers refer the youth to **ongoing supportive community services** that will help them succeed and prevent future lawbreaking.

## Retailers' discretion

All youth who have allegedly shoplifted from Westfield Southcenter Mall may be trespassed for up to one year. However, active participation in T3AMS could result in the termination of the trespass admonishment and all fees/fines imposed by the retailer. Though informed by discussions with law enforcement, service providers, and T3AMS Governing Committee members, the Westfield Southcenter Mall and its retailers retain ultimate and exclusive authority to make trespass admonishment and financial penalty decisions in all cases involving that youth.

## T3AMS Project Partners

The T3AMS Project is a collaboration between multiple community partners, supported by funding from King County's Best Starts for Kids initiative.



## For more information please contact:

### T3AMS Pilot Project:

Zac Davis  
King County Best Starts for Kids  
T 206-482-8710  
zac.davis@kingcounty.gov

### Westfield Southcenter Mall:

Becky Smith  
Northwest District General Manager  
T 206-246-0423  
bsmith@us.westfield.com

### Tukwila Police Department

Rick Mitchell  
Deputy Chief  
T 206-431-3673  
r.mitchell@tukwilawa.gov