

\$51K in Jewelry Stolen in Destiny USA Mall Smash-and-Grab

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— Categories: *Crime*



Syracuse, N.Y. A bold and well-timed smash-and-grab at Destiny USA mall left one jewelry kiosk empty and police searching for answers. In the early hours of March 31, six unidentified suspects managed to sneak into the massive shopping complex, steal \$51,000 worth of jewelry, and disappear, all in a matter of minutes.

The entire theft was captured on mall security cameras and was recently released by the Syracuse Police Department. The footage shows the suspects arriving at the mall around 3 a.m. in a white Kia, which authorities later confirmed had been reported stolen. The group gained access to the mall by entering through a damaged utility door, according to Syracuse Police spokesperson Kieran Coffey.

The video paints a clear but unsettling picture: the suspects jog through a hallway, moving quickly and with apparent coordination. They stop at the Banter by Piercing Pagoda kiosk, where they seem to briefly discuss their next move. One of them uses a crowbar to shatter the glass display cases. In a flash, the others grab handfuls of jewelry before sprinting back the way they came.

Within moments, they flee the scene in the same stolen Kia, leaving behind only broken glass and a lot of questions.

Police say the suspects have not yet been identified, and none of the stolen jewelry has been recovered. The utility door used to enter the mall has since been repaired, according to Destiny USA spokesperson Samantha Marra.

The incident has left many wondering about mall security and whether this high-profile theft could have been prevented. But perhaps more concerning is the fact that this wasn't an isolated event.

Less than two weeks later, on April 12, another group of six attempted a similar break-in. This time, the effort was foiled before any theft could occur. Syracuse police arrested three juvenile suspects who now face charges including possession of a stolen vehicle and trespassing.

While the second attempt did not result in any stolen goods, it has drawn attention to a troubling pattern. The use of the same tactic, forced entry through the same utility door, raises questions about how prepared large shopping centers are for repeated crimes of this nature.

For now, investigators continue to comb through footage and leads, hoping to identify the individuals responsible for the March 31 theft. As of now, the suspects remain at large, and the stolen jewelry is still missing.

The recent incidents have added a sense of urgency to ongoing conversations around mall security, especially in overnight hours when such large spaces are largely unguarded. Destiny USA, one of the largest malls in New York, now finds itself at the center of a case that remains unresolved, and very much open.

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