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NEWS RELEASE

## METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

February 24, 2017

### SLMPD Welcomes 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Mardi Gras Grand Parade

**St. Louis, Mo.** - The Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis welcomes residents and visitors to one of the nation's largest Mardi Gras celebrations. In order to ensure a safe and fun celebration for all, the department would like to remind participants and spectators of traffic details, parking restrictions, liquor laws and other regulations that apply to the Grand Parade and Mardi Gras festivities on Saturday, February 25.

There will be a significant police presence with officers patrolling in both uniform and undercover capacities. As another layer of security, the department will monitor real-time cameras installed in the footprint of the parade and festivities.

While there is ample parking available, Metro will offer a special shuttle that operates on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 11 p.m. between the Stadium MetroLink Station in Downtown St. Louis and the Mardi Gras venue in Soulard. The Mardi Gras shuttles will run every 15 minutes and will drop off and pick up passengers in Soulard on 10th Street between Carroll and Marion Streets. The \$6 round-trip shuttle passes can only be purchased on February 25 at the Stadium MetroLink Station. Riders who have a valid Metro U-Pass and Metro Monthly Pass can also use their pass as valid fare for the Mardi Gras shuttles. For more information, visit [www.metrostlouis.org](http://www.metrostlouis.org).

Those choosing to drive are urged to "Park Smart" and park in well-lit, populated areas, concealing valuables by placing them in compartments or the vehicle's trunk prior to arrival. Parade goers are strongly encouraged to leave firearms at home.

The Mardi Gras Grand Parade begins at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 25. The parade start point is at 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Cerre and it will proceed south on 7<sup>th</sup> to Chouteau, east on Chouteau to S. Broadway, south on S. Broadway until the 7<sup>th</sup> Street merge and finally continue south on 7<sup>th</sup> Street until it ends at Sidney. There is no parking along the parade route and any vehicles obstructing the parade route will be towed.

There will be no vehicle access in the "red" zone of Soulard. This area is marked by the following streets: Marion on the North, Broadway on the East, Shenandoah from Broadway to 11th and Ann from 11th to I-55 on the South and I-55 on the west. The "yellow zone" of Soulard is restricted to parking by permit only. Any vehicles without permits will be subject to

ticketing and towing. The “yellow zone” is bound by the following streets: Ann from I-55 to 11<sup>th</sup> and Shenandoah from 11<sup>th</sup> to Broadway on the North; 7<sup>th</sup> Street on the East; Lynch on the South; I-55 on the west. The “yellow zone” also includes the area of Soulard that is north of I-55. That area is bound by the I-55, Tucker and Park. For all or portions of the day, the following streets will be closed: 6<sup>th</sup> Street from Cerre to Gratiot, Clark from 8<sup>th</sup> to Broadway and the entire “red zone” as defined above. The entire route of the Grand Parade will also be closed until Sunday evening.

All questions regarding street closures should be directed to the City of St. Louis Streets Department.

Persons attending Mardi Gras are prohibited from bringing backpacks, coolers, bottles or cans into the festival area. This includes both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. There will be perimeter checkpoints throughout the Soulard neighborhood. For more information on this year’s event, visit [www.stlmardigras.org](http://www.stlmardigras.org).

Undercover officers and City Excise agents will be monitoring the area for underage drinking. Anyone under the age of 21 consuming alcoholic beverages and/or using false identification will be cited and subject to arrest.

Attendees are also reminded of ordinances and safety risks associated with roof top parties. Gathering on roof tops can potentially result in injuries to those on roofs and to those on the ground. Police will work closely with the City Building Commissioner to ensure roof tops are free of public attractions including bands, disc jockeys and bead tossing.

There will be portable toilets in the festival area. Anyone engaging in public urination will be subject to arrest. Persons engaging in lewd and indecent conduct or any other violations of the law will also be subject to arrest.

**We will provide media briefings regarding any major incidents related to Mardi Gras on Saturday, February 25. The briefings will take place at Gene Slay’s Boys’ Club, 2524 S. 11<sup>th</sup> St., at 3:30 p.m. and again at 8:00 p.m. The day of the Mardi Gras Grand Parade is a very busy day for officers so please note that these two briefings will be the only opportunities for in-person/on-camera sound from police.**

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