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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

April 7, 2014

SLMPD Shares Opening Day Safety Tips with Cardinals Fans

The Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis (“the department”), along with the St. Louis Cardinals, would like to inform the citizens of St. Louis as well as visiting fans of street closures and safety precautions. The St. Louis Cardinals’ baseball season will begin with a 3:15 p.m. game against the Cincinnati Reds on Monday, April 7.

The gates to the stadium open at 1:15. The department urges all fans to allow themselves plenty of time to get to the Downtown area and plenty of time to get inside the gates at Busch Stadium.

During Opening Day festivities, only the northbound lane of 8th St., between Clark and I-64, will be accessible. Like every home game, Clark St. between 8th and Broadway will be closed to vehicle traffic. Also, due to CityArchRiver construction, Memorial between Walnut and Pine will be closed, along with exit ramps from the Popular Street Bridge and I-70 to Memorial. We encourage motorists traveling to Busch Stadium to plan ahead and take alternative routes.

Fans are encouraged to take MetroLink. To avoid costs of parking and game day traffic, fans can use one of 19 free Park-Ride lots along the MetroLink line and take the train to Stadium Station, right across the street from the ballpark. Check the Metro website www.MetroSt.Louis.org for schedules and the Park-Ride lot nearest you.

Those choosing to drive are urged to “park smart”— park in well-lit, populated areas, concealing valuables by placing them in compartments or in the vehicle’s trunk prior to arrival. The department strongly encourages citizens to leave firearms at home. Events such as baseball games are no place for firearms, as they are not allowed inside Busch Stadium and leaving them in a vehicle creates opportunity for criminals. Don’t let your legal firearm become an illegal firearm.

Fans are also advised to remain aware of their surroundings and if choosing to consume alcohol, are urged to drink responsibly. Criminals often target those who appear to be most vulnerable, including those who might be intoxicated.

There will be a significant law enforcement presence in all areas surrounding Downtown and Busch Stadium. We strongly encourage anyone who sees criminal or suspicious activity to alert a nearby officer or dial 9-1-1.

The department urges all those in attendance to have a safe and enjoyable event.

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