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NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

March 3, 2011

**Metropolitan Police Department Encourages Responsible, Safe
Mardi Gras Celebrations**

The Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis (“the department”) would like to ensure that everyone participating in Mardi Gras festivities is fully aware of traffic details, parking restrictions, liquor laws and other regulations that apply to Grand Parade Day and Fat Tuesday Parade Day.

The Mardi Gras Grand Parade begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 5. The parade start point is at 7th Street and Cerre and it will proceed south on 7th to Chouteau, east on Chouteau to Broadway, south on Broadway until the 7th Street merge and finally continue south on 7th 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 11th and Shenandoah from 11th to Broadway on the North; 7th 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.

There are numerous street closings on March 5. For all or portions of the day, the following streets will be closed: 6th Street from Cerre to Gratiot, Clark from 8th to Broadway and the entire “red zone” as defined in the above paragraph. The entire route of the Grand Parade will also be closed until Sunday evening.

The Fat Tuesday Parade begins at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8. The parade start point is at Broadway and Washington and the parade will proceed south to Walnut where it ends. Broadway will be closed between Cole and Spruce for all or portions of the day, depending upon crowd size. There is no parking along the parade route and any vehicles obstructing the parade route will be towed.

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.

Those attending Mardi Gras events are also reminded that the legal age to consume alcoholic beverages is 21. Undercover officers and City Excise agents will be monitoring the area for underage drinking. Anyone found to be 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 jockey's 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 disturbances, arrests and any major incidents related to the March 5 celebration. The briefings will take place at 815 Ann (the old Lafayette School) at 3 p.m. and again at 8 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. There will be no briefings during the Fat Tuesday parade however any pertinent information will be provided via email updates and/or the media hotline.

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