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**NEWS RELEASE**

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

February 19, 2009

**Metropolitan Police Issue Advisories for Mardi Gras Celebrations**

With large crowds expected for the February 21<sup>st</sup> Mardi Gras Parade and the February 24<sup>th</sup> Fat Tuesday Parade, the Metropolitan Police Department wants to ensure that residents and revelers alike are aware of traffic details, parking restrictions, liquor laws and other regulations that apply to the festival area.

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 11<sup>th</sup> and Ann from 11<sup>th</sup> to I-55 on the South; I-55 on the West. The "yellow zone" of Soulard is restricted to parking by permit only. Any vehicles without permits are subject to ticketing or 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 following streets: I-55, Tucker & Park.

The Mardi Gras Grand Parade begins at 11:00am on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>. The parade begins at 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Cerre and proceeds south on 7<sup>th</sup> to Chouteau, east on Chouteau to Broadway, south on Broadway until the 7<sup>th</sup> Street merge, to continue south on 7<sup>th</sup> Street until Sidney where the parade ends. There is no parking along the parade route. Any vehicles obstructing the parade route will be towed.

There are numerous street closings on February 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 noted above. The actual parade route of 7<sup>th</sup> Street from Marion to Russell will remain closed until Sunday evening.

The Fat Tuesday Parade begins at 7:30pm on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. The parade begins at Broadway and Washington and proceeds south to Market where it ends. There is no parking along the parade route. Any vehicles obstructing the parade route will be towed.

The following street will be closed on February 24<sup>th</sup> for all or portions of the day: Broadway will be closed between Cole and Spruce.

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.

Revelers are also reminded that the legal age to consume alcoholic beverages is 21. Undercover officers along with State Liquor Control and City Excise agents will be monitoring for underage drinking. Anyone found to be using a false identification will be cited and will be subject to arrest. 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 law violation will also be subject to arrest.

**We will provide updates regarding disturbances, arrests, towed vehicles and any major incidents related to the Saturday celebration at 815 Ann (the old Lafayette School) at 3:30pm and again at 8:30pm on February 21<sup>st</sup>. These will be the only opportunities for in-person/on-camera sound from police. The media hotline will be updated at 12pm, 5:30pm and 11pm.**

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