



News Release No. 67

For Immediate Release: December 24, 2008

PLANNING TO ATTEND THE 56TH PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION? GUESTS SHOULD PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR WEATHER, TRAFFIC AND LONG LINES

RICHMOND – Are you one of possibly millions of people making plans for the historic Inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama? If so, Virginians and out-of-state visitors heading to Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2009, need to start preparing now for difficult weather conditions, traffic congestion, long lines and substantial crowds.

“As individuals, groups and others get organized and begin making arrangements to attend this remarkable milestone in our nation’s history, we ask that they take time to also be adequately prepared,” says Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Virginia State Police Superintendent. “With so many expected to attend the various inaugural events, we do anticipate significant traffic delays throughout Northern Virginia and points south, as well as the potential for inclement weather and large crowds.”

Traffic

State police will have extra patrols dedicated statewide Monday, Jan. 19, 2009, through Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009, to enhance traffic flow and emergency response. Those traveling through Virginia to Washington, D.C., should ask themselves:

- With limited parking in the District, should I take a bus or other alternative means of mass transportation?
- If traveling by interstate, am I prepared for traffic delays and to wait an extended period of time? (Extra food, water, medications, etc.)
- Is my vehicle prepared for traffic delays? (Vehicle is in good condition, adequate fuel, etc.)
- If driving in inclement weather, do I have emergency items with me? (Extra blankets, flashlights, batteries, etc.)

For more information on inaugural transportation alternatives, security measures and closures, visit the Virginia State Police Website at www.vsp.virginia.gov and click on the *Presidential Inauguration* icon or visit <http://inauguration.dc.gov>.

Weather

According to historical data compiled by the National Weather Service, the average temperature range for Jan. 20 is between the mid-to-upper 20s and the low-to-mid 40s; with a good chance of precipitation in the form of either rain, sleet or snow.

With record crowds expected for the presidential swearing-in and Inaugural Parade, attendees should be prepared to be outdoors for an extended period of time and give consideration to the following:

- Can I stand in severe cold/wet and/or windy weather for an extended period of time, possibly eight hours or longer?
- Dressing in layers is highly recommended, especially to protect one’s self from hypothermia.
- Warm, dry, comfortable shoes are encouraged, especially for walking as many as 3-5 miles to/from Inaugural events.
- Extra consideration should be given if planning to bring small children, elderly or anyone with a weakened immune system.
- Check weather forecasts in advance at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov>.

STATEWIDE MEDIA CONTACTS:

VSP HQ	Richmond	Culpeper	Appomattox	Wytheville	Chesapeake	Salem/Roanoke	Fairfax
Ms. C.Geller	Sgt. Cunningham	Sgt. Tyler	Sgt. Cooper	Sgt. Conroy	Sgt. Cotten	Sgt. Carpentieri	
(804)674-2789	(804)553-3494	(540)829-7713	(434)352-3403	(276)223-4242	(757)424-6827	(540)375-9598	(804)674-2789