



News Release No. 5

For Immediate Release: January 16, 2008

INAUGURAL ATTENDEES REMINDED TO KEEP SAFEGUARDS IN MIND IF DRIVING OR WALKING TO THE INAUGURATION

Crime Prevention Tips for Virginians and Visitors

RICHMOND – Virginians and guests to the Commonwealth are reminded to protect themselves and their valuables so they don't become a victim of opportunistic crime. Virginia State Police urges everyone attending Inaugural events to take precautions and exercise safety measures to best reduce their chances of becoming a victim.

With thousands of individuals expected to drive and park their vehicles for the Inauguration, safety begins when you park your vehicle:

- When driving, place purse or valuables underneath your seats.
- When exiting your car, do not leave valuables in plain view. Remove GPS, portable and video media players, docking equipment, laptops, cell phones, CD's, and money or loose change.
- Never leave personal identification documents - vehicle ownership title or credit cards - in your vehicle.
- Keep your registration card with you and not in the glove compartment.
- Make sure your car is locked and windows closed.
- Always use your emergency brake when parking.
- Note where you parked your car so you can find it quickly when you return.
- If you anticipate it will be dark upon your return, park under a light at night.
- Always approach your car with your keys in hand.

The Virginia portion of the 2009 Presidential Inauguration Transportation Plan allows pedestrians and bicyclists full access to the Memorial Bridge, Chain Bridge and Key Bridge between Virginia and Washington, D.C. In addition, the bike/walk paths from the George Washington Memorial Parkway that run along the 14th Street Bridge and Roosevelt Bridge from Virginia into Washington, D.C., will also be open to pedestrian and bike traffic.

The following are reminders about personal safety:

- Be observant as you walk and aware of your surroundings.
- Walk in the center of sidewalks. Avoid bushes and alleys.
- Do not carry excessive cash.
- Avoid wearing expensive clothing or jewelry.
- Look both ways before stepping off a curb.
- If walking with a child – make sure you grasp their hand firmly so they don't break away.
- If you are walking with a group – designate a meeting place should you get separated.

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