



**Atlanta Police Department**

**Public Affairs Unit**

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**NEWS**

**RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 22, 2011**

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**ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT INCREASES PATROLS DURING HOLIDAY SEASON,  
ENCOURAGES CITIZENS TO BE VIGILANT FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**

The Atlanta Police Department will be increasing patrols during the holiday season, kicking off Thanksgiving night with the 64<sup>th</sup> Lighting of the Great Tree at Macy's through the Chick-Fil-A Bowl in the Georgia Dome and Peach Drop on New Year's Eve at Underground Atlanta.

Zone commanders throughout the department's six geographical zones have put together holiday action plans to ensure the safety of citizens from crimes of opportunity that include robberies, burglaries, auto thefts, vehicle break-ins and shoplifting.

The plan includes overtime for Atlanta police officers and coordination with other law enforcement agencies, private security and off-duty personnel. The department will also deploy discretionary units accordingly, including Auto Theft Task Force, DUI Task Force, Motors, Mounted Patrol, C.O.P.S. and others.

"The holidays are a wonderful time of year for family and friends, but as police we have to redouble our efforts to make sure that criminals do not spoil our celebration," said Atlanta Police Chief George Turner. "It's imperative that citizens be mindful of the opportunistic nature of criminals and be aware of their surroundings at all times."

People should avoid talking on their cellphones while moving through parking lots while shopping, avoid unlit or unsupervised parking lots, travel in groups after dark when possible, avoid darkly-lit streets, use ATMs indoors and always be vigilant for suspicious behavior.

Chief Turner wants to remind citizens that they can help the police by calling 911 if they see any suspicious activity as part of the city's "See Something/Say Something" campaign.

Also, Chief Turner wants citizens to be mindful of the "Clean Car Campaign," encouraging people to never leave valuables in a car – not even items that can hint of potential targets, such as the tell-tale ring left by a GPS suction cup on a windshield, or earbuds for an mp3 player.

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This holiday season, the department will be distributing “Clean Car Checklists” to motorists around shopping areas throughout the city of Atlanta.

The checklists are laminated public service reminders designed by the department. The checklist hangs by an aluminum chain from the rear view mirror of a vehicle as a constant reminder to remove all valuables – from GPS devices to laptops to purses – so that citizens will not be victims of a car break-in.

*Some of the specific areas of interest during the holidays include (by no means is this a comprehensive list):*

- Lenox Square and Phipps Plaza
- The District at Howell Mill
- Metropolitan Parkway
- Memorial Drive Restaurant District
- West End Mall
- Greenbriar Mall
- Edgewood Shopping District
- Ansley Mall
- Atlantic Station
- Centennial Olympic Park
- Hotel District/Downtown Atlanta

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