

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Mayor John E. McCormac & Woodbridge P.D.
Announce Crime Prevention Program Geared to
Increase Safety & Security During Upcoming
Holiday Season**

**WPD to Increase Presence of Uniformed Officers and Marked Patrols
Throughout Township Shopping Districts**

Woodbridge - Mayor John E. McCormac today announced that the Woodbridge Township Police Department (WPD) has kicked-off the 2008 "Holiday Shopper Safety Program" by increasing the number of uniformed patrol officers and marked police vehicles patrolling the township's shopping districts during the holiday shopping season. The WPD has also opened a police sub-station at the Woodbridge Center Mall which will provide additional police presence at the Township's largest shopping center.

"Township residents, visitors and shoppers taking advantage of the bargains to be found throughout our diverse shopping districts in Woodbridge, Colonia, Fords, Iselin, Avenel and our other towns will be safer this holiday season as increased police patrols and uniformed police officers take to the streets beginning today," Mayor McCormac said. "Public safety and quality of life issues stand as the main priority of the Woodbridge Police Department. By announcing our holiday shopper safety program and a stepped-up police presence, we are signaling that the Township is open for business and welcoming shoppers."

Mayor McCormac, Woodbridge Municipal Council President Rick Dalina and the members of the Municipal Council, and Chief William Trenery, Woodbridge Township Police Department, announced that the 2008 "Holiday Shopper Safety Program" is a high-profile public safety initiative that reassigns officers and detectives to uniformed patrol responsibilities and which concentrates on providing a high-visibility police presence in all retail and commercial shopping areas throughout the Township.

Woodbridge Township officials urged holiday shoppers and travelers to use common sense and think safety at the malls, on the road, and at home throughout the holiday season. Woodbridge Police Chief Trenery provided the following "Shopping Safety Tips:"

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times and be especially alert to any activity near your parked vehicle;
- Have your keys out and be ready to unlock your car door;
- Give the vehicle a quick inspection as you approach, checking door handles, locks and back seat before entering;
- Be suspicious of people approaching your car asking for directions or handing out flyers;
- Always keep valuables and electronic equipment out of sight and doors locked;
- Walk with purpose, not aimlessly and walk with a companion whenever possible;

Additionally, Mayor McCormac and Chief Trenerly reminded shoppers that certain actions can serve to keep them safe, including:

- Shop with friends and family members;
- Park in safe, well-lit areas and don't walk to dark or secluded areas; and
- Ask a uniformed police officer or security guard to accompany you if you are uneasy in the parking area.

"In order for Woodbridge Center to be successful, it is critical that we provide a safe and comfortable shopping environment for our customers and our employees. We pride ourselves on our professional, customer service oriented security team coupled with a cooperative relationship with the Woodbridge Township Police Department. As a part of our holiday planning, increased patrols and presence by the Woodbridge Police Department helps us create a pleasant environment for everyone," said Amy Bellisano, Senior General Manager, Woodbridge Center Mall.

"Woodbridge Township offers some of the best shopping in Central New Jersey and we want everyone shopping at all of our township businesses to know that there are more police providing for their safety and security," said Council President Dalina..

Mayor McCormac and the Woodbridge Township Council encourage all township residents and visitors to safely enjoy the holiday season.

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