

# Crimestoppers GNO Mardi Gras Safety Tips

## *Before You Leave for the Parade*

**Have a plan on where you will view the parade and share it with your family. Watching from a familiar area helps to accumulate young children if they become lost.**

### **Young Children**

- 1) Make sure children know their full name, address (city and state), and telephone number including area code. If your child is too young, place your contact information on a slip of paper and place on your child.
- 2) Be sure children know how to call 9-1-1.
- 3) Teach children never to accept gifts or food from someone they don't know.
- 4) Teach children to go to another parent, **police officer** or a store clerk for help if lost during a parade or on the street.

**Introduce your child to a police officer on the route so they know who they are.**

- 5) Children should be accompanied to public restrooms.
- 6) Teach children that if a stranger tries to take them away from the area, shout "You are not my parent, leave me alone" and get away.
- 7) Teach them that no one, not even someone they know, has the right to touch them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable. Tell them they have the right to say "No" in this situation.
- 7) Teach them to never jump or go around the barricades when a parade is rolling.
- 8) Pick a landmark at the viewing area and tell your child not to leave that place if they are separated from you.

### **Cash / Jewelry**

- 1) Do not carry large amounts of cash and do not display your cash. Limit to one (1) credit or debit card. Keep a written record of your credit card numbers.
- 3) Keep them in a safe place like your front pants pocket with your cash.
- 4) If you must use an ATM, be aware of criminals loitering near ATM machines. Always press "end or cancel" after your transaction.
- 5) Avoid wearing expensive and flashy jewelry, which can make you a target.

## Preventing Pick Pocketing

- 1) Use cross body handbags that have a zipper and locking flap and carry them securely with the flap close to your body.
- 2) Carry wallets inside your coat or front pants pocket; never carry them in your back pants pocket.
- 3) If you are unnecessarily bumped or crowded while attending a parade, be aware that a pickpocket may be responsible.
- 5) If your pocket is picked, call out immediately to warn the possible victims or other people in the area. Locate law enforcement to help.

## Vehicle Security & Parking

- 1) When using a “pay” parking lot, make sure there is an attendant with the company logo or uniform. Some criminals pose as attendants, take your money and flee before you return.
- 2) Always lock your car after entering or leaving it.
- 3) Park in well-lighted parking lots or common areas where there is pedestrian traffic.
- 4.) Always lock valuables out of sight, preferably in the trunk. Always carry wallet, checkbooks and purses with you.

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING BY DOWNLOADING THE FREE CRIMESTOPPERS **GNO** MOBILE AP**



