



Mardi Gras 2023

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

FEBRUARY 3 - 21

PARKING

- Be sure to obey the gold and purple “No Parking” signs along the parade route and on designated emergency routes.
- Do not block driveways, fire hydrants or intersections.
- Parking is not allowed on sidewalks.
- Cars towed for parking violations will be taken to the temporary impound lot under I-10 off of Monroe Street.

LOST CHILDREN

Police are emphasizing that parents make every effort to place an identity card in their child's pocket in the event they become separated from each other. The card should provide the name of the child, address, telephone contact numbers and the name of a relative.

In the event parents and children are separated, children should be instructed to go to the nearest police officer. Police will attempt to contact the parents, and the children will be taken to Central Precinct located at 55 N. Water Street until they can be reunited.

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CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

MPD will be enforcing the Entertainment District Ordinance during Mardi Gras. The ordinance allows “open containers” with certain restrictions. Be aware of the following:

- All alcoholic beverages must be purchased from a downtown business with an ABC license.
- Patrons may leave an establishment in the Entertainment Districts with an alcoholic beverage only if it is in a paper or plastic cup bearing the logo of the establishment or the LoDa logo.
- You may not leave an establishment with a beverage before noon or after midnight.
- Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in city parks, with the exception of Cooper Riverside Park.

Also:

- State law requires a valid driver’s license for entry into a bar that does not have a working kitchen and serve food. You must be 21+ to enter such an establishment. If you plan purchase an alcoholic beverage, do not come downtown without your driver’s license, even if you are not driving.
- You must have or fill out a membership card for entry into a private club.

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GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

- Attend parades in groups with family or friends.
- Glass containers are prohibited by city ordinance
- Do not follow floats. Violators may be arrested.
- Do not throw any object in the direction of floats, band members or any parade participants. Violators may be arrested.
- Materials known as "Silly String" and "Snap & Pops" along with similar products are illegal. Possession of any of these products may result in arrest.
- Do not cross the barricades. Each officer will be carrying a ticket book and will be issuing citations for the offense. The fine for crossing the barricades is \$298.
- No underage drinking is allowed. Special undercover police details arrest violators.
- If you need police assistance during a parade, go to the nearest intersection and advise a uniformed police officer.
- Choose a well-lit area for night parade viewing.
- Establish a post-parade meeting place for family and friends in case you become separated.
- Park vehicles in secure areas and do not leave valuables in plain sight. Utilize the trunk to store valuables.
- Uniformed and plainclothes officers will be patrolling behind the crowds to identify and arrest persons engaging in criminal activity.
- Pets are prohibited during the parades downtown.

