



James P. O'Neill
Police Commissioner
(646) 610-6700
dcpi@nypd.org
@nypdnews

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 28, 2018

NYPD Outlines Security Measures for New Year's Eve

Hundreds of Thousands Expected to Safely Gather in Times Square to Ring in 2019

New York, New York—The New York Police Department announced today security measures for the annual New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square. Mayor Bill de Blasio and Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill were joined by other top officials at the announcement, which was held at NASDAQ. The New York Police Department continues to maintain a robust overlay of police officers to ensure the safety of the celebrators.

"The NYPD routinely does a great job of planning and securing large-scale events around New York City," **Police Commissioner James P. O'Neill** said. "Simply put, this is what we do – and New Year's Eve, when the eyes of the world are on us, is certainly no exception. Nothing in our profession is done alone, however, and our members work hand-in-hand with our law-enforcement partners – including the FBI, the New York State Police, the MTA police, and many others – all throughout the year in preparation. This unrivaled collaboration allows us to carry out our shared mission of delivering the safest and most enjoyable event possible, up to and through the ball-drop in Times Square."

"New Yorkers have much to be thankful for and celebrate this year," said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. "We're on track to becoming yet again the safest big city in our nation thanks to the women and men in blue who defend and protect our city every day. Our officers are fostering connections with community leaders and neighborhood organizations to build on our neighborhood policing progress and make New York City not just safest, but fairest big city in America."

As in years past, those attending the celebration in Times Square will be screened. Backpacks, large bags, umbrellas, and alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited. Property may not be left checkpoints. At approximately 11 a.m., attendees will be directed by police officers to gather in separate viewing pens. As the pens get populated, the entertainment from 43rd Street between Sixth and Eighth Avenues will continue to move north up to Central Park, due to the ball drop from the southern end. Please note, attendees who leave before the ball drops will not be able to regain entry to their original viewing area.

Beginning at 4 a.m. on Monday, December 31st, 2018, Times Square will be closed to vehicular traffic. People should avoid all cross-town streets from 34th to 59th Streets, as well as Sixth and Eighth Avenues. A traffic advisory with a comprehensive list of street closures is available on our website.

Mass transit is strongly encouraged due to expected heavy traffic delays and parking restrictions. Remember, large backpacks, lawn chairs, umbrellas and alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited. Anyone who sees suspicious activity should alert a police officer or call 911. The NYPD's terrorism hotline is 888-NYC-SAFE.

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