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News Release

For Immediate Release

Black Friday Tips for Gridlock Prevention

Because black Friday is so popular Nationwide, many residents of Springfield will take advantage of the commercial discounts available and travel on the city streets primarily from 4AM throughout the day and night until approximately midnight.

During this time, the Springfield Police Department (SPD) would ask all motorists to observe a couple of key rules in order to prevent intersection gridlock.

- When travelling through an intersection, allow ample time to completely clear the intersection and do not place your vehicle in the intersection waiting for the light to change.
- Use side streets as often as possible to move throughout the city. Staying on the main routes will clog most of the major thoroughfares.

Although motorists may not realize it, for every locked intersection they are involved in, it creates a cascade affect throughout many intersections in all directions backing traffic up and creating further delay. If motorists will obey all traffic laws and have a little more patience, most intersections will continue to operate smoothly.

While shopping, remember to take all valuables and lock them in the trunk of your vehicle and lock your car. Black Friday is a prime opportunity for thieves to break into your car, and every year the SPD sees a spike in thefts from vehicles during this time.

The SPD will use Twitter on Friday as a means to update motorists on gridlocked intersections and provide a possible alternate route around the area. To follow the SPD on Twitter, go to www.twitter.com/SGFPolice

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Release authorized by: Maj. Kevin Routh