



For Immediate Release
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HPD Advises Motorists to Expect Heavy Traffic for JMU Graduation

Harrisonburg, Va. With James Madison University commencement scheduled for May 8th and 9th, the Harrisonburg Police Department reminds citizens to expect significant traffic delays, congestion, and an increase in pedestrian traffic, etc. throughout this week. According to JMU officials, approximately 4,000 students will graduate this weekend, and motorists will experience an increase in vehicle and pedestrian activity throughout the commencement period.

"If you are not part of the graduation ceremonies, you may want to avoid the areas that traditionally experience increased traffic volume and congestion," says HPD Traffic Officer Wayne Westfall, Jr. "Port Republic Rd., University Blvd., Reservoir St., and South Main St. will be very busy, and, we will probably expect back-ups at the I-81 Exit 245 and 247 ramps, and heavy activity along E. Market St. around Burgess Rd. at Harrisonburg Crossing," Westfall added.

The most notable traffic activity will be during graduation ceremonies at 3 pm. and 7 pm. on Friday at Bridgeforth Stadium, and Saturday throughout the campus starting at around 8 am. and continuing into the early afternoon. HPD, JMU and surrounding agencies will be out in force directing traffic, overseeing graduation parking, and monitoring roads and intersections for congestion issues. Please note also that the JMU gates will be closed both days, and through traffic on campus will not be permitted.

A reminder to residents living in restricted parking zone areas in and around JMU, graduation weekend is an exception to permit zone enforcement, so traffic in these neighborhoods will also likely be heavy.

HPD reminds motorists to please be cautious when driving in Harrisonburg this week, and throughout the summer, and as always, drive safely, be alert, and minimize distractions when behind the wheel.

For more information please visit www.jmu.edu/commencement or tune to AM 1610.