



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

Harrisonburg - With James Madison University (JMU) commencement scheduled for May 5 and 6, the Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) reminds citizens to expect significant traffic delays, congestion, and an increase in pedestrian traffic throughout this week and weekend.

Thousands of students will graduate this weekend, and motorists will experience an increase in vehicle and pedestrian activity throughout the commencement period.

Those who are not participating in graduation ceremonies are encouraged to avoid the areas that traditionally experience increased traffic volume and congestion. These areas include, but are not limited to: Port Republic Road, University Boulevard, Reservoir Street, South Main Street, Interstate 81 Exit 245 and 247 ramps, and East Market Street around Burgess Road.

Officers from HPD, the James Madison University Police Department (JMU PD), and surrounding agencies will be out in force directing traffic, overseeing graduation parking, and monitoring roads and intersections for congestion issues.

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 be cautious while driving in Harrisonburg this week and allow plenty of extra time to reach your destination.

For more information please visit [www.jmu.edu/commencement](http://www.jmu.edu/commencement) or tune to AM 1610.

**On behalf of the city of Harrisonburg, congratulations to all of the graduates of 2017!**