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PRESS RELEASE

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFERS ISLAND RESIDENTS A “TOP 10 LIST” OF SAFETY TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAY SHOPPING SEASON

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. today issued holiday shopping safety tips to Staten Islanders at the start of the traditional shopping season for the Christmas and Hanukkah holidays. “Although this is a time to wish for “peace on Earth” and “goodwill towards men” there are some among us who see the holiday season as an opportunity for theft,” stated District Attorney Donovan. “I encourage all residents to be safe and smart while making this the greatest holiday season ever.”

- When traveling to a shopping mall: Always park in a well lit area, remember where you parked, keep all doors and windows locked and upon returning to your car be sure to look out for lurking strangers, including under your car.
- There is safety in numbers, try to shop in groups, with friends or family, especially when shopping at night or using an ATM.
- Leave the expensive or even expensive appearing jewelry at home.
- Avoid carrying a purse if possible, as it is a prime target for a petty thief.
- Take only the cash, credit cards and identification needed, preferably use only a credit card or check to make purchases.
- If carrying cash, credit cards and identification on your person, keep it in your front pocket where it is most difficult for a thief to reach.
- Remember the obvious: Don’t flash large amounts of money around and leave the expensive or even expensive-looking jewelry at home.

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- When using a credit card: Always double check to make sure you have your credit cards back and never allow your credit card to leave your sight.
- Teach your children what to do in the event you get separated. The best option is to instruct your child to look for a security guard or police officer, or go to the customer service desk where people are trained to help.
- Consolidate as many packages as possible, or make several trips to your car to deposit packages in the trunk. Don't allow yourself to become so burdened down with packages that you become a tempting target.

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