Security for the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg Police, working with State and Federal law enforcement partners, are prepared for Friday’s start of the Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg. There are newly enhanced security measures in place to ensure the safety of the more than 150,000 spectators expected to enjoy three days of racing on the streets of downtown.

NEW THIS YEAR: Fans can expect security measures similar to any major sporting event, including walk through magnetometers at all entrances to the venue, bag screenings, and increased law enforcement presence. In addition, only marina residents and authorized boats will be allowed into the South Yacht Basin of the St. Petersburg Municipal Marina.

Law enforcement will also be deployed in the downtown entertainment areas, as well as on Beach Drive and areas adjacent to downtown. The public is encouraged to report suspicious activity to law enforcement and if they “See Something, Say Something;” by calling the St. Petersburg Police Department’s non-emergency line at 727-893-7780, or by using Tip411 on their phones.

In addition to the Grand Prix, the Tampa Bay Boat Show will be going on simultaneously at Tropicana Field, and there are events planned in Straub Park along the waterfront. The public should expect increased traffic in these areas and pay close attention to signage and officers directing traffic around those venues.

The St. Petersburg Police Department will staff a Unified Command Center with FBI, ATF, Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Coast Guard, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Highway Patrol, Florida National Guard, Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tampa Police Department, and the Regional Domestic Security Task Force Bomb Team.