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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Dear Constituent:

If you are planning to travel to Washington, D.C., for any Inaugural events, I wanted to provide you this information that I hope will be of assistance to you.

Part of the Inaugural Ceremony and the Inaugural Parade will be open to the general public. Both of these opportunities are great ways to participate in this historic event.

You may also sign up to receive my e-newsletters on my website www.adamputnam.house.gov where I will be sending out updated information as the Joint Congressional Committee on the Inaugural Ceremonies releases further information.

Please do not hesitate to contact my staff in Washington, D.C., at 202-225-1252 in the interim should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam H. Putnam".

Adam H. Putnam
Member of Congress

EVENTS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Welcome Event – Sunday, January 18, 2009

This event will be the first of several Inaugural activities. The event will take place on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on Sunday afternoon at 2pm. For more information, please visit www.pic2009.org.

Day of Service – Monday, January 19, 2009

To honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the President-Elect and Vice President-Elect will participate in activities dedicated to serving others in communities across the Washington, D.C., area. For information on what activities will be available, please visit www.pic2009.org.

There will also be a youth concert at the Verizon Center that evening. The concert will be free, but tickets are required. For more information, please visit www.pic2009.org.

Inaugural Ceremony – Tuesday, January 20, 2009

The entire length of the National Mall west of 4th Street will be open to the general public free of charge on January 20, 2009. You will be able to watch and listen to the ceremony on large screens that will be provided by the Presidential Inaugural Committee along the Mall. The National Mall will open at 4am. You must enter the National Mall from the South. Please visit <http://www.nps.gov/inau/index.htm> and www.pic2009.org for more information on points of entry to the general viewing area on the Mall.

Inaugural Parade – Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Tickets are not required for the Inauguration Parade and it will be open to the general public. The public will not be allowed to line up before 7am on Pennsylvania Avenue on January 20th. Please visit <http://inauguration.dc.gov/pdf/GPA01-09InaugSecPlans.pdf> for a map of pedestrian entry points for the parade route. You can also find out more information at www.pic2009.org.

Inaugural Balls – Tuesday, January 20, 2009

There are both official and unofficial balls for the Inauguration. Most balls are open to the general public and tickets will be available for purchase. For more information on official Inaugural balls, please visit www.pic2009.org.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

METRO (Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority)

The best way to get in and around Washington, D.C., during the week of the Inauguration is Washington, D.C.'s Metrorail system. WMATA has launched a website specific to the Inauguration: http://www.wmata.com/getting_around/metro_events/inauguration.cfm. They will update this website with news releases regarding service updates and any last minute service changes leading up to Inauguration Day.

Metro officials expect extremely crowded conditions on Inauguration Day. Metrorail stations and trains will be heavily congested as people travel to the Inauguration sites, and expect to see even tighter conditions afterward. It is recommended that passengers purchase their fare cards in advance in order to avoid long lines at the metro kiosks.

On January 20th, the Metro will operate rush hour service for 15 consecutive hours (4 a.m. to 7 p.m.) and will stay open for two extra hours (until 2 a.m.).

The U.S. Secret Service has deemed the Inauguration as a special national security event and due to security measures, the Archives-Navy Memorial/Penn Quarter Metrorail station on Metro's Green and Yellow Lines, will be closed all day on Inauguration Day, Tuesday, January 20th. In addition, one of two entrances to the Smithsonian Metrorail station on the Blue and Orange Lines will also be closed (only the Independence Ave SW entrance will remain open).

BUS

Metrobus will operate on a normal Saturday schedule on January 20th. Due to the anticipated street closures around the Mall and Pennsylvania Avenue for the parade, all Metrobuses will be prepared for detours. Bus customers are encouraged to plan significant extra time to travel through these areas. No vehicular traffic, including buses, is expected to be able to pass close to the U.S. Capitol, nor will vehicles be able to cross Pennsylvania Avenue. Please visit their website for more information. <http://www.wmata.com/bus/>

PARKING

Parking in and around Washington, D.C., especially the Capitol Complex, will be almost impossible during the days surrounding the inauguration. Please try to utilize public transportation while you are visiting D.C.

ROAD CLOSURES

The Secret Service released information regarding road closures and available pedestrian walkways in two press releases. Here are the links:

<http://inauguration.dc.gov/pdf/GPA01-09InaugSecPlans.pdf>

http://inauguration.dc.gov/pdf/InaugJIC_PressRelease_TransportationPlan_FINAL.pdf

HELPFUL TIPS

- Please pay close attention to all security measures that will be in place. The United States Secret Service has listed prohibited items for most inaugural events. More information can be found on their website http://www.secretservice.gov/presidential_inaugural.shtml.

Prohibited Items: As a security precaution, the following items will be prohibited from Inaugural parade route, the White House reviewing stand or the Inaugural balls: firearms, ammunition, explosives, weapons of any kind, aerosols, supports for signs and placards, packages, coolers, thermal or glass containers, backpacks, bags exceeding size restrictions (8"x6"x4"), laser pointers, animals other than helper/guide dogs, structures, bicycles and any other items determined to be a potential safety hazard. With respect to signs and placards, items should be made of cardboard, poster board or cloth and have dimensions no greater than three (3) feet in width, 20 feet in length and one-quarter (1/4) inch in thickness. Surrendered items will not be returned, nor available for pick-up.

Please check their website at http://www.secretservice.gov/presidential_inaugural.shtml the days leading up to the Inauguration as more items may be added to this list.

- Get to your destination EARLY. Allow plenty of time when traveling to and from wherever you are going. Whether you are lining up at the general public viewing area on the Mall to watch the Inauguration Ceremony or lining up on Pennsylvania Avenue to watch the parade, the lines are expected to be long and there could be unexpected delays.
- Purchase your metro fare card before January 20th.

Weather

The weather on January 20th has traditionally been extremely cold and wet. The crowds will be exceedingly large and you will likely be outside for a number of hours if you are planning to attend the Inauguration Ceremony or the Inaugural Parade. Please be sure to wear your warmest gear (bring a blanket with you to stay extra warm for all outside events). You can visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website for Inauguration weather forecasts. http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/Historic_Events/Inauguration/Inauguration.html

CONTACT INFORMATION

Congressman Adam H. Putnam

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The Cannon House Office Building is located on the corner of Independence Avenue and New Jersey Avenue, SE – on the south side of the Capitol. As you exit from the Capitol South metro station, our building is directly across the street.

Senator Mel Martinez

356 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3041
Fax: (202) 228-5171

Senator Bill Nelson

716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-5274
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HELPFUL WEBSITES

- Presidential Inaugural Committee
<http://www.pic2009.org/>
- Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies
<http://inaugural.senate.gov/>
- United States Secret Service
http://www.secretservice.gov/presidential_inaugural.shtml
- Washington Post
<http://voices.washingtonpost.com/inauguration-central/>
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/Historic_Events/Inauguration/Inauguration.html
- Armed Forces Inaugural Committee
<http://www.afic.northcom.mil/index.html>
- Washington Metro Area Transit Authority
http://www.wmata.com/getting_around/metro_events/inauguration.cfm
- District of Columbia Government
<http://www.inauguration.dc.gov/index.asp>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I view the Inauguration if I don't have a ticket?

- Yes. The entire length of the National Mall west of 4th Street will be open to the public on January 20, 2009. You will be able to watch and listen to the ceremony on large screens that will be provided by the PIC along the Mall. To find out more information, please visit www.pic2009.org.

How do I get to the general viewing area for the Inauguration?

- The National Mall will open at 4am to the public. You must enter the Mall from the South. Please visit <http://www.nps.gov/inau/index.htm> and www.pic2009.org for more information on points of entry to the National Mall.
- Arriving by metro or by foot will be the best form of transportation to the Mall area.

What can I bring to the Inauguration?

- Some items that will be allowed onto the mall area are: blanket, poncho (check weather report ahead of time), camera (video cameras are allowed but no tri-pods or other equipment), cell phone, and small purse.
- Prohibited items: Firearms, weapons of any kind, ammunition (either real or simulated), explosives of any kind (including fireworks), knives, blades, or sharp objects (of any length), aerosol sprays, coolers, thermal or glass containers, mace, pepper spray, sticks, poles, pocket or hand tools (such as a leatherman), packages, backpacks, large bags, duffel bags, suitcases, laser pointers, posters, signs, placards (including support structures), animals other than guide dogs or service dogs assisting handicapped individuals, strollers, chairs, umbrellas, alcoholic beverages, and any other items at the discretion of the security screeners that may pose a potential safety hazard.
- Please make sure you check the list of prohibited items at http://www.secretservice.gov/presidential_inaugural.shtml before you attend any events as the information listed above is subject to change.

Will there be any Metro Closings?

- Yes. The Archives-Navy Memorial/Penn Quarter Metrorail station on Metro's Green and Yellow Lines will be closed all day on Inauguration Day, Tuesday, January 20th.
- In addition, one of two entrances to the Smithsonian Metrorail station on the Blue and Orange Lines will be closed (only the Independence Ave SW entrance will remain open).

How late will the Metro be open?

- The Metro will be open from 4am to 2am on January 20th.
- Please check www.wmata.com for more information.

Can I attend the parade?

- Yes. Tickets are not required for the Inauguration Parade and it will be open to the general public. The public will not be allowed to line up before 7am on Pennsylvania Avenue on January 20th. Please visit <http://inauguration.dc.gov/pdf/GPA01-09InaugSecPlans.pdf> for a map of pedestrian entry points for the parade route. You can also find out more information at www.pic2009.org.

Can I attend any balls?

- There are both official and unofficial balls for the Inauguration. Most balls are open to the general public and tickets will be available for purchase. For more information on official Inaugural balls, please visit www.pic2009.org.

Can I visit the new Capitol Visitors Center and take a tour of the Capitol?

- Yes. However, the U.S. Capitol will be closed to the public Sunday, January 18, 2009, through Tuesday, January 20, 2009. Public tours of the Capitol will resume on Wednesday, January 21, 2009. Due to the influx of visitors to Washington, D.C., and closures related to the Inauguration, tours will be extremely limited. If you are interested in scheduling a tour (should space be available), please contact my tour coordinator, Johnny Craig, at 202-225-1252.