

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Village Encourages Residents to be ‘Smart and Safe’ this Holiday Season

PALMETTO BAY, Fla., (Dec. 16, 2008) – The holiday season brings out the best in all of us... well, most of us. According to Palmetto Bay’s Policing Unit, some people are already taking the spirit of the season to new heights with late-night parties, loud music, and at least one large gathering at an unoccupied home.

Village Mayor Eugene P. Flinn encourages residents to be “smart, safe, and responsible” this holiday season.

“We certainly understand this is the time of year when friends and families gather to share in the warmth of the season,” said Mayor Flinn. “And we’re not trying to put a damper on anyone’s festivities. But, at the same time, we need to be aware that sometimes, party-goers may step outside the norms of ‘goodwill toward man.’”

Mayor Flinn requests that if residents witness suspicious activity, they should not hesitate to call the police, by dialing 9-1-1. He further notes that in addition to the party at the unoccupied home, there have been reports of loitering on the streets and/or neighboring yards, and other inappropriate activities in our neighborhoods.

According to Commander Gregory Truitt of the Village Policing Unit, this is also the time of year when there is often an increase in burglaries and petty crimes, especially at shopping malls. “Shopping during the holidays can present unique dangers,” he said. “By taking a few preventive steps, you can keep your holiday season joyous and crime free.”

So that residents may be better prepared in the event of such crimes, the Village recently released its annual Holiday Shopping Guide, which is available online at www.palmettobay-fl.gov.

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*Incorporated in 2002, **The Village of Palmetto Bay** is a vibrant community of 25,000 residents nestled between Biscayne Bay and So. Dixie Highway, about 15 miles south of downtown Miami. The Village is governed by a five-member Council and operates under a Council-Manager form of government. Dubbed “The Village of Parks,” Palmetto Bay offers an extensive system of attractive parks, unique recreational opportunities, and bay access. It also is home to several excellent public schools, and a robust commercial corridor along Dixie Highway offering a diverse range of restaurants, markets, and lodging. Specifically, the Village extends from the centerline of SW 136 St., south to the centerline of SW 184 St., expanding west to the centerline of South Dixie Highway (including the center island), and east to Biscayne Bay.*