HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

With the joy and festiveness the holiday season brings, it can be easy for each of us to set aside the customary safety precautions and security practices we utilize the rest of the year. The Department of Public Safety wants this to be a safe holiday season for everyone. Please remember these holiday safety tips.

- When traveling to and from your destination, regardless of if you are walking, driving or taking public transportation, plan your trip in advance. Know how to get to your destination by the most direct and safest route. This is especially important when you change your normal schedule to shop, attend holiday parties or visit friends.

- Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times. Criminals often confront persons who are distracted. Travel on populated, well lit streets. Whenever possible, travel with friends. Incidents of thefts involving small electronic devices such as I-Pads and smart phones on public streets and mass transit have increased.

- Carry your purse close to your body by placing one end of the purse in the palm of your hand and the other in the bend of your elbow. Refrain from carrying the purse by the handle or wrapping the strap around your body. To minimize pick pocketing, wallets should be kept in the front pant pocket.

- Plan purchases in advance and carry only the amount of cash or credit cards necessary to make the purchase. If you must carry a large sum of money, divide the cash between a purse, wallet and pocket.

- Record the card numbers and issuer’s telephone numbers of each credit card you own, and keep it in a safe location. This will ease the reporting process if the card is lost or stolen.

- Don’t leave expensive personal items or gifts in any unattended location. For staff, bring home your purchases the day you buy them. For resident students, take your valuables home during holiday break.

- Look out for games of confidence. On line “bargains” such as expensive perfumes, electronics or jewelry at a fraction of the real cost are notorious frauds during the holiday season. If you buy Gift Cards from a display rack that has various store cards, you may become a victim of theft. Crooks are now jotting down the card numbers in the store, wait a few days and call to see how much of a balance THEY have on the card. Once they find the card has been "activated", they go online and start shopping. You may want to purchase your card from a customer service desk, where the cards are not visible to everyone.

- If you become a victim of a crime, immediately notify your local law enforcement agency. If the crime occurred in or around the NYU campus, also notify Public Safety at 998-2222.

Wishing everyone a safe and joyous holiday season
The men and women of the NYU Department of Public Safety