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Boston Police prepare for busy two days

Aerosmith concert in Allston, Election Day Romney rally

By **Matt Rocheleau** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT NOVEMBER 05, 2012

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BILL GREENE/GLOBE STAFF

Steven Tyler waved to the crowd from a duck boat at TD Garden before heading to the band's show on Commonwealth Avenue.

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Boston police are preparing for a busy two-day stretch, dedicating additional officers and resources to Allston Monday for a streetside Aerosmith concert and, on Tuesday, to hundreds of polling stations throughout the city for Election Day voting.

Both days will involve road closures, parking bans, and traffic diversion. The department is coordinating with the Secret Service and State Police to provide security for Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's election-night rally at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, police Superintendent in Chief Daniel P. Linskey said Sunday.

“There will be a few challenges, but nothing we can’t handle,” he said.

Aerosmith plans to perform outside 1325 Commonwealth Ave., the apartment building where the band got its start, on Monday. A plaque will be unveiled at noon; then the band will play until 1 p.m., Linskey said.

New England Patriots president Jonathan Kraft will introduce the group, joined by “a couple of Patriots captains” and a group of team cheerleaders, Aerosmith’s publicists said in a statement Sunday.

Lead singer Steven Tyler said in an interview on Mix 104.1 Sunday that Patriots’ quarterback Tom Brady will help introduce the band.

“We’re gonna arrive on duck boats,” Tyler told the radio station. “It’s gonna be mega, mega.”

Patriots spokesman Stacey James did not confirm that Brady would attend and said the team hoped to finalize the players who will attend Monday.

Commonwealth Avenue will be closed between Harvard Avenue and Allston Street from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., city officials said. Parking will be banned between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Officers will keep concertgoers away until 8 a.m., including anyone who might have tried to camp out before the show.

Parking bans and road closures are also planned for side streets connected to the closed section of Commonwealth Avenue. Trolley service on the Green Line B branch will be suspended between Washington Street and Packard’s Corner from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., according to the MBTA.

Linskey said residents of the closed-off area should carry a document to prove residency to pass through any checkpoints.

“We don’t anticipate any major problems,” Linskey said. “What we would ask residents, we would ask patrons who are coming, concertgoers, is to be patient, to work with us.”

On Tuesday, the department will help distribute and collect about 1.5 million ballots from polling locations in Boston.

Because of a long list of candidates and ballot questions, voters will be issued two ballots instead of the usual one. “We’re working to ensure that we’re able to get out those additional ballots and to get them back

into City Hall in a timely fashion,” Linskey said.

By law, one officer is required to be at each polling location, he said. Additional police will be in other areas of the city to help manage large crowds of voters, heavy traffic, or any other disruptions.

Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, plans to hold an election-night rally at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. Outside the center, Summer Street will close at 6 p.m.

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