

NEWS FROM Legislator

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For Immediate Release

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No Tricks, All Treats **Follow Halloween Safety Tips** **To Make It a BOO-tiful Holiday**

(HUNTINGTON STATION, NY... October 23, 2014) – With Halloween right around the corner, Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) and the Suffolk County Police Department would like to remind everyone that, by following a few simple guidelines, they can celebrate safely while still having fun.

Halloween Safety Tips for Individuals

Children often let their guard down with the excitement of dressing up and trick-or-treating. The following safety tips can help make the festivities fun and safe for everyone:

- Costumes, masks and shoes should be well-fit and light-colored to avoid blocked vision, trips and falls and to help increase visibility. If children do wear a dark-colored costume, reflectors should be used on both the clothing and any bags.
- Take your children trick-or-treating during daylight hours. If older children are trick-or-treating without an adult, plan a route and set a time when they should return home.

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- Although discouraged, anyone trick-or-treating at night should use a flashlight or glow sticks to increase visibility. Remind children to avoid strangers and to never enter a stranger's home.
- Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating. Consume only factory-wrapped treats.
- If possible, use battery-operated candles or glow sticks in jack-o'-lanterns and luminaries. Place decorations out of the reach of pets and small children and never leave candle-lit pumpkins unattended.
- Always carry a cell phone in case of an emergency.

Safety Tips for Drivers

- Be extra vigilant when trick-or-treaters are walking on neighborhood streets.
- Use extra caution when driving over hills, near curves and when approaching stop signs and crosswalks.

Protecting Your Home and Property

Unfortunately, criminal mischief and vandalism are prevalent during the Halloween season. To deter tricksters from damaging your property, make sure your home and property are well-lit. **All criminal mischief and vandalism offenses will be taken seriously by the Suffolk County Police Department. There is no such thing as an “innocent” or “harmless” prank if it involves damaging property or inconveniencing another person.** You should report all suspicious activities, persons or vehicles to the Police Department at (631) 852-COPS (2677). If you see criminal activity in progress, be sure to dial “911” immediately.

“Halloween is a fun holiday that children look forward to all year long,” said Legislator D’Amaro. “I urge everyone to follow these guidelines to ensure a day that is both enjoyable and safe for all.”

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Suffolk County Legislator Lou D’Amaro represents the 17th Legislative District, which includes parts of Huntington, Huntington Station, South Huntington, Melville, West Hills, Cold Spring Hills, Dix Hills, Deer Park, North Babylon and West Babylon. He is chairman of the Budget & Finance committee and a member of the Education & Information Technology and Human Services committees of the Suffolk County Legislature.