



MARDI GRAS REVELERS CONVERGE ON NEW ORLEANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 3, 2011, New Orleans – Mardi Gras is upon us at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport and we are seeing our seasonal surge in passenger traffic.

Tomorrow kicks off the busy Mardi Gras travel season at Armstrong International as people converge on the city for Mardi Gras, but also starts the time when many locals depart to take to the slopes or head out on that family vacation. The Airport is expected to see heavy passenger traffic from Friday, March 4 through Thursday, March 10 as Mardi Gras visitors depart the City and head home.

Passengers traveling over this holiday period should plan on arriving at the Airport two hours prior to their scheduled departure time. Armstrong International expects all flights to be at or near capacity throughout the Mardi Gras travel period. On peak travel days there are over 17,000 daily seats available to the New Orleans market. TSA will have all lanes and equipment staffed on peak days, janitorial and law enforcement staff has been increased and the airlines will be fully staffed to keep wait times to a minimum.

“Heavy passenger loads are the norm for the Mardi Gras season in New Orleans and this year will be no different. We have been working closely with the TSA and our air carriers to ensure a pleasant travel experience for all who come to enjoy our wonderful culture,” stated Director of Aviation Iftikhar Ahmad.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu stated, “With Mardi Gras being late this year and coinciding with Spring Break, we expect to see a high number of visitors arriving for the festivities, coming to enjoy our unique food, culture and the overall experience of New Orleans.”

People coming to pick up arriving passengers at Armstrong International are encouraged to use the cell phone lot at the corner of Hollendey and Airline and wait for their passenger to call that they are waiting on the curb for pickup. You can also park in the Short-Term Airport Parking Garage and meet your passengers in the terminal and avoid circling the roadway system that is expected to be congested. Rates for the Short-term Airport Parking Garage are \$2.00 for the first hour and \$2.00 for each additional half-hour or portion thereof. The daily maximum is \$16. The Long-term Parking Garage is also available at a daily rate of \$13.00.

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