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City Leaders Detail Safety Measures and Best Practices for Getting to the 25th Annual River of Lights

Free Park & Ride and ART Routes Highly Encouraged; Advance Ticketing Required

ALBUQUERQUE - Today Mayor Tim Keller, City leaders, and the New Mexico BioPark Society, held a briefing to provide an update on safety measures ahead of the NMBPS's 25th Annual River of Lights which opens on Saturday, Nov. 26. [River of Lights](#) (ROL) is a fundraiser for the ABQ BioPark and is New Mexico's original and largest walk-through holiday attraction.

First and foremost, in order to avoid traffic in and around the ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden at Central and New York, ROL visitors are highly encouraged to take the free Park & Ride from the Zoo parking lot on 10th St. Park & Ride service runs nightly from November 26 to December 30 (ROL is closed on December 24 and 25) and shuttles visitors right to the Botanic Garden.

Another great alternative to getting to ROL is free ART routes that will arrive at the Botanic Garden every 8 to 15 minutes. The 766 Red Line will provide service from the Central & Unser Transit Center to the Uptown Transit Center and all ART stations in between. The 777 Green Line will provide service from the Central & Unser Transit Center to Central & Tramway and all ART stations in between. Security guards will be on the ART buses.

The BioPark's new quiet, electric shuttle will also run on select nights from Tingley Beach to the Botanic Garden for those who purchase tickets for Santa's Magical Experience. The BioPark will continue testing the highly-efficient shuttle after ROL before opening to the public in January 2023.

An event of this magnitude requires months of planning and coordination among multiple City departments including APD and AFR. Safety measures ROL visitors can expect to see include:

- Double the digital signage with real-time messaging (ex. Parking Lot is Full - Use Park & Ride).
- Crossing guards at key intersections around ROL.

- A lit, underground pedestrian path with security under Central at Tingley for those who reside in the neighboring areas who walk to ROL.
- Added security on ART buses and stations.
- APD enforcing traffic laws.
- PSAs onsite at Tingley and Central to monitor vehicle and pedestrian traffic.
- Double the amount of both City security and contracted security onsite.

A ROL visit requires a reserved timed ticket, available online only. The timeslot selected only pertains to arrival time; visitors can stay as long as they would like. Tickets are valid only for the date and time specified on the ticket. Early entry is not available. ROL is a fundraiser therefore refunds will not be offered for missed entries or visits.

ROL runs November 26 through December 30 (closed December 24 and 25). Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$7 for children 3-12, Monday-Thursday; \$17 for adults and \$9 for children 3-12, Friday-Sunday. Tickets are available at <https://bit.ly/3EDkXeJ>.

Other key takeaways from the briefing:

- Allow yourself plenty of time to arrive and enjoy the event.
- Park & Ride and ART options for getting to ROL are the best bet to avoid traffic.
- The ROL parking lot fills up quickly after the first ticketed timeslot.
- Parking on neighboring streets is restricted to residents with parking passes.
- Pay attention to digital signage for real time updates.
- If you have to travel in or around that area, please be patient. There will be congestion.
- Adhere to all traffic and pedestrian laws.

In addition to the NMBPS's River of Lights, other upcoming holiday events include the City's Old Town Holiday Stroll on December 2, Twinkle Light Parade on December 3, and ABQ Ride's 56th Annual Luminaria Tour on December 24. More information can be found at www.cabq.gov.

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The ABQ BioPark is an accessible facility and a division of the Department of Arts and Culture, City of Albuquerque, Tim Keller, Mayor. We are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and a member of the American Public Gardens Association. For more information, visit www.abqbiopark.com or call 311 locally or 505-768-2000 (Relay NM or 711).

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