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Strong Law Enforcement Presence at Iditarod Restart

(WILLOW, Alaska) –Alaska State Troopers will have an increased presence in the Willow-area this weekend. The strong presence is due to the restart of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on March 8. A crowd of approximately 20-thousand people is anticipated. Having troopers and other law enforcement entities on scene will help ensure that the festivities remain safe for everyone.

The strong presence will include ‘B’ Detachment troopers as well as members of the Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol’s Multi-jurisdictional Traffic Team. They will be patrolling the roadway north of Wasilla, focusing mainly in and around the Willow-area. The traffic team includes Alaska State Troopers and officers from both the Wasilla and Palmer Police Departments. The traffic team’s presence will allow patrol troopers to concentrate on crowd safety issues and other calls for service. The traffic team will support the restart by providing police presence on busy roads by looking for motorists demonstrating poor driving behaviors such as speeding, passing in no passing zones, and erratic driving. They will be also be available to respond to motor vehicle collisions in a timely manner. Several troopers and an Alaska Wildlife Trooper will be on snowmachines in order to quickly respond to emergency situations in the area.

We encourage all motorists to be cautious, to slow down and make sure everyone in the vehicle is either wearing a seat belt or properly restrained in a child safety seat. The goal of this increased presence is to encourage everyone to safely enjoy the restart of the Last Great Race.