



Ensuring Safety During Pride Month Celebrations

As we approach Pride Month in June 2024, it is crucial to address the safety and security of the LGBTQIA+ community. Recent intelligence has indicated a heightened threat level of potential terrorist activities targeting Pride events across the country. This release aims to provide the public with important safety information, recommendations, and resources to ensure a safe and enjoyable Pride Month.

Understanding the Threat

Intelligence agencies have identified potentially credible threat(s) from both foreign and domestic terrorist groups intending to target the LGBTQIA+ community during Pride Month celebrations. These threats are aimed at causing harm and spreading fear within the community. While specific details remain confidential to protect ongoing investigations, it is important for the public to remain vigilant and proactive.

Foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) or their supporters may exploit increased gatherings during Pride Month.

FTOs have a history of promoting anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric and targeting related events.

June 12 marks the anniversary of the Pulse Nightclub shooting, a significant event celebrated by pro-ISIS messaging.

In June 2023, three alleged ISIS sympathizers attempted to attack a Pride parade in Vienna, Austria.

Recommendations for the Public

1. Stay Informed and Alert

Monitor Local News: Keep up-to-date with local news reports and official advisories from law enforcement agencies.

Recognize Suspicious Behavior: Be aware of unusual activities or individuals.

2. Report Suspicious Activities

Immediate Reporting: If you see something suspicious, do not hesitate to contact local law enforcement immediately. Dial 911 or local emergency number or non-emergency line as appropriate.

Anonymous Tips: Many communities offer anonymous tip lines, crime watch programs, and similar reporting platforms. Utilize these resources if you prefer to remain anonymous while reporting.

3. Plan Ahead

Know the Venue: Familiarize yourself with the layout of event venues; including emergency exits, medical personnel and first aid stations, and where police or security are stationed or posted.

Coordinate with Friends: Make plans to stay connected with friends and family members during events. Establish specific meeting points outside the venue in case you get separated during an emergency situation.

4. Practice Personal Safety

Avoid Large Bags: If possible, leave large bags and backpacks at home to minimize screening delays and security risks.

Leave Expensive Items at Home: Do not make yourself a target for theft or robbery.

Stay Sober: Maintain situational awareness and pay attention to your surroundings by moderating alcohol consumption and avoiding impairing substances.

Use Safe Transportation: Plan your transportation to and from events. Utilize rideshare services, public transportation, or designated drivers.

5. Participate in Safety Drills

Event Drills: Attend any safety drills or briefings provided by event organizers or public safety officials. Understanding the emergency procedures and knowing what to do can be lifesaving.

Personal Preparedness: Ensure your mobile device stays charged, consider adopting the buddy system, and avoid wearing earbuds or headphones. You can also consider carrying a small first aid kit, small flashlight, and pepper spray (if permitted inside the venue.)

Message from TSERA Special Police

The safety of our neighborhoods and communities is a top priority. TSERA Special Police is working tirelessly with local, state, federal, and nonprofit partners to ensure that Pride Month celebrations are safe and secure. We ask for your cooperation and vigilance as we navigate these challenging times.

Together, we can create a safe and inclusive environment where everyone can celebrate Pride Month with confidence and joy. By staying informed, reporting suspicious activities, and practicing personal safety, we can thwart potential threats and protect our community.

Let's honor the spirit of Pride Month by standing united against hate and ensuring a safe, vibrant celebration for all.

Deputy Chief B. E. Beckwith

TSERA Special Police

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