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OFFICIALS: JULY 4 SAFETY MEASURES IN FULL EFFECT ON ESPLANADE

By Chris Triunfo

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BOSTON, JULY 2, 2018.....Following a statement assuring there is no credible security threat against the annual July 4 Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular, the state's public safety secretary emphasized a series of warnings, rules and pleas confirming ramped up safety measures ahead of this year's celebration.

"The most important intelligence tool that's out there are the people who are going to see something [and] say something," Public Safety Secretary Daniel Bennett said, addressing the media in front of the Hatch Memorial Shell on the Charles River Esplanade.

The secretary was joined by Mayor Martin Walsh and Gov. Charlie Baker to discuss an event that organizers expect over half a million people to attend.

Mayor Walsh listed items that would be banned from the event, highlighting large containers, backpacks, alcohol, grills and drones. Personal items must be carried in clear bags, and only single-handle coolers are allowed. He also emphasized that officers would be on the lookout for the use of fireworks.



Gov. Charlie Baker briefed the media Monday about security measures ahead of the Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular.
[Photo: Chris Triunfo/SHNS]

"Leave the fireworks to the professionals," Walsh said. "They're dangerous and somebody could get hurt."

Baker asked that citizens and attendants stay hydrated, following last week's heat emergency in Boston.

"It's going to be a very hot night, and we hope everyone comes prepared," Baker said.

According to the governor and the mayor, public transportation is the safest bet for arriving to the event, considering street closures and checkpoints that will make traffic even more chaotic than usual.

The briefing also featured a statement from Keith Lockhart, the music director of the Boston Pops, in which he announced the concert's lineup.

The Indigo Girls, Rita Moreno and Rhiannon Giddens will be some of the acts highlighting Wednesday's event.

The Fireworks Spectacular begins at 8 p.m. and will be streamed and broadcast on Bloomberg TV and radio.

At an earlier press conference Monday, Walsh and Boston Police Commissioner William Evans said that undercover officers, K-9 teams, marine teams and a large intelligence operation will be present on Wednesday. Additionally, the State Police will be using a tethered drone to monitor the event for the second time, similar to the drone used to monitor the Boston

Marathon.

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