

## **PAPAL VISIT BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER FAQS**

### **1. Should my business close in the days leading up to and including the World Meeting of Families?**

We are not advising businesses in any part of the city to close. In fact most areas will likely not notice any difference until Friday evening when the 'Francis Festival Grounds' goes into effect. Businesses that are close to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and Independence Hall should obviously expect a large number of people to congregate on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, which may make access difficult. Within the Secure Perimeter no vehicles will be allowed and pedestrians will need to pass through magnetometers. Within the Secure Vehicle Perimeter no vehicles will be allowed.

### **2. Will my employees be able to access buildings within the Francis Festival Grounds, Secure Vehicle Perimeter and Secure Perimeter?**

Yes. For buildings within the Secure Perimeter additional security measures will be in place and the U.S. Secret Service has been working directly with building owners and businesses to make the necessary arrangements.

### **3. Will I be able to receive deliveries during the weekend?**

Given the number of people expected to Philadelphia and restrictions on traffic movement we strongly encourage businesses to have all necessary deliveries completed by 6PM on Thursday within the Secure Vehicle Perimeter and by 6PM on Friday within the Center City Traffic Box and by 10PM on Friday within the University City Traffic Box.

There will be very limited deliveries for essential, perishable items during the weekend. The window will be 12:00 midnight to 4:00AM on Saturday and Sunday, and will be limited to vehicles 28ft or smaller.

For most of you, deliveries & commercial trash vehicles that need to enter the Traffic Box (Francis Festival grounds) but NOT the Secure Perimeters will be able to do so from 12AM-4AM on Saturday and Sunday mornings with no designated entry points.

For the small number of businesses within the Secure Perimeter and Secure Vehicle Perimeter that need vehicle deliveries & commercial trash pickup, these trucks must be screened by the USSS. Additional information about screening and entry points will be provided directly to businesses and commercial trash haulers. If you have not received information from the designated Police Officer or U.S. Secret Service Agent for your area, contact the Business Resource Center and we will connect you. Remember: you can always walk deliveries into the Secure Perimeter and Secure Vehicle Perimeter and therefore negate the need to have a vehicle screened by the USSS.

### **4. Will there be commercial trash pickup?**

We strongly encourage you to store your trash over the weekend if you have the ability.

If your business requires trash pick up over the weekend, your trash hauler may access your business overnight, between midnight and 4AM on Saturday and Sunday, per the instructions above (#3) for commercial deliveries.

Also, note that there will be no residential trash pickup citywide for those scheduled for Friday or Monday trash days.

## **5. How can I get a license to vend within the Francis Festival Grounds?**

Anyone wishing to do business within the City of Philadelphia needs to obtain a Commercial Activity License and comply with all other regulations including the boundaries of the Center City and University City Special Vending Districts. If you do not already have a Special Vending District license the areas within the Francis Festival Grounds are off-limits. This is no different for the weekend of the World Meeting of Families.

If you obtain a Commercial Activity License and a Sidewalk Sales License you are eligible to vend in Philadelphia anywhere EXCEPT for within special vending districts or other street as prohibited by law. You can see those on this map showing prohibited streets and special districts for vending: [Vending / Sidewalk Sales](#) in the Map Browser or download the [Prohibited Streets](#) list.

## **6. I am currently licensed to vend at a location within the Francis Festival Grounds, will I be allowed to vend at my usual location?**

If you have the necessary licenses and satisfy the normal City regulations you will be allowed to vend as usual with the caveats that vehicles will not be allowed to leave and re-enter the Francis Festival Grounds. However if your vending location is within the Secure Vehicle Perimeter you will not be allowed access to vend.

Since many Center City and University City (Special Vending District) vendors will not be able to get to their designated locations due to the security perimeters, the City will make the following exception: From Friday Sept 25 – Sunday Sept 27, Special Vending District Licenses for Center City and University City will be accepted for other areas in the City where vending is typically allowed (outside of special districts and prohibited streets).

## **7. What are the public transportation restrictions?**

SEPTA, NJ Transit, and PATCO will be running with limited routes and stops. Those who are planning to utilize SEPTA for any transportation needs Friday through Monday should review the transit map, plan ahead, and continue to check the site periodically for updates.

- SEPTA ([www.septa.org](http://www.septa.org))
- NJ Transit ([www.njtransit.com](http://www.njtransit.com))
- PATCO ([www.ridepatco.org](http://www.ridepatco.org))

Some notes on SEPTA Special Papal Passes:

- Regional Rail lines, Trolley Routes 101/102, and Norristown High Speed Line will require pre-purchased Papal Passes.
- Regular tokens/passes may be used on subways, buses, and trolleys.

- R1 Airport Line will take passengers to Jefferson Station. Papal passes will be required on R1 and will be on sale for visitors arriving by plane. Anyone driving to the airport to access the R1 train must have pre-purchased a Papal Pass for SEPTA Regional Rail.

**8. Should we hire extra security, stock extra supplies, etc.?**

You should take whatever extra steps you think are necessary for your particular business. We are not advising individual businesses but simply letting people know the facts about number of visitors expected and the restrictions on the movement of people and vehicles.

**9. When will everything be back to normal?**

We will do our best to have the City back to normal as quickly as possible. We ask for residents' and businesses' patience as there will be a significant amount of equipment/fencing to remove and areas to clean.

**10. Will taxis and legally authorized car services be allowed to operate within and in/out of the Francis Festival Grounds?**

WAV (wheelchair accessible vehicles), SEPTA CCT and UberWAV (PUC-licensed paratransit partners) will have no restrictions entering the Francis Festival grounds.

Taxis and limos/Uber Black with medallions will be allowed until 2AM Saturday.

Taxis and limos/Uber Black with medallions will be allowed to operate from 3AM Monday onward.

**11. What about emergency repairs – elevators, windows, etc.?**

Businesses with any emergency needs during the weekend should contact the Business Resource Center at 215-683-2100.

**12. Can I bring in a refrigerated truck or other storage unit to help me carry extra stock for the weekend?**

Francis Festival Grounds: Extra storage of this type is allowed. Make sure to have it in the Box by Friday at 6PM (10PM in Univ City). If it is being stored on private property you can do this as of right. If it is being stored on public property/right of way you will need all appropriate City permits and the exact location will be examined.

Secure Vehicle Perimeter: Extra storage is allowed. You must contact the Business Resource Center at 215-683-2100 or Business @Phila.gov with the location and description of the storage unit so that it can be approved and inspected by the Secret Service. The unit must be in place by Thursday at 6PM and must be stored on private property.

Secure Perimeter: No additional storage units will be allowed due to security measures.

**13. Will funeral directors be allowed to enter and exit the traffic restricted areas for purposes of making a transfer from place of death to funeral home?**

Funeral directors will receive their instructions from the facility (hospital, nursing home) as necessary. In the circumstance in which a death occurs at home or another location, 911 will need to be called for emergency vehicle transport.

**14. How will we get our Home Health Care and Hospice providers to residents that are located within the Festival Grounds?**

We expect that SEPTA will provide the best options for workers to get in and move around the Festival Grounds. Your employees may have to allow additional time for transportation and walking.

**15. My company picks up time critical specimens, delivers lifesaving medication, repairs surgical equipment, etc. to hospitals located within the Festival Grounds. How will I get my truck or courier there?**

Hospitals have made arrangements for services through their own emergency planning. You should contact the hospital for which you provide service.

**16. Will our armored vehicles be able to access ATM machines within the Festival Grounds to service and fill machines?**

Festival Grounds: access will be available during overnight hours per the commercial delivery guidelines (see #3 above).

Secure Vehicle Perimeter: Access of trucks with armed guards will be coordinated with the Secret Service. If you have not received information from the designated U.S. Secret Service Agent for your area, contact the Business Resource Center and we will connect you.

**17. Will people be able to get around by bicycle?**

Bicycles can travel anywhere in Center City except in the Secure Perimeter (cannot go through the magnetometer screening).

Indego, the City's bike share program, will be offering special service from Friday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>. [www.rideindego.com](http://www.rideindego.com) Indego will provide staffed, corral service at several stations to guarantee bike and dock availability, and to answer customer questions. The following locations will provide this service (operating hours will be finalized shortly):

- Rittenhouse Square station (Walnut & 19<sup>th</sup> streets)
- Foglietta Plaza station (Front & Dock streets)
- 30<sup>th</sup> Street station (30<sup>th</sup> & Market streets)
- Broad & Spring Garden station

**18. Will the USPS deliver mail?**

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 26 – 27 – There will be no delivery or collection of mail in the the following zip codes: 19104, 19107, 19130, 19122

Monday, Sept. 28 – USPS will return to full operations with delivery and collection of mail.

For more info about Post Office Retail Operations, go to: <https://about.usps.com/news/service-alerts/resident-weather-updates.htm>

If you have further questions, please call the City's Papal Visit Business Services Center: 215-683-2100.

The Center will be open from 9am Friday until 11:59pm Sunday night to take calls and answer questions. 311 will also operate around the clock that weekend to answer general resident and visitor questions.