Pokémon Go Safety Tips

- **Put the phone down when crossing the street.** Even when there is a crosswalk, be aware of vehicles and hazards that may not pay attention to pedestrians.
- **Take a buddy to hunt Pokémon.** There is greater safety in numbers for most activities.
- **Parents have a conversation concerning PokéStops and Gyms.** Pokémon Go encourages players to frequently visit specific locations of interest called PokéStops and Gyms. Players frequently make introductions while playing at these locations. This is a great opportunity for parents and children to discuss conversations with strangers. Set expectations and limitations for your children.
- **Nocturnal Pokémon.** The game encourages players looking to “catch them all” to play at night. We encourage parents to have a conversation about appropriate hours and locations to hunt nocturnal Pokémon. Set expectations and limitations for your children.
- **Trespassing concerns** – if you don’t know it’s a public space, ask permission before going onto properties. It is illegal to enter a city park or cemetery at night (City Code 23-43.2 for City Parks / State Code 18.2-125 for Cemetery).
- **Set limitations for where your children can hunt.** Specific land features (grass, beach, industrial areas, and desert) attract different Pokémon, but some land features pose an increased risk. We discourage players from hunting on railroad tracks, industrial areas, or near water features without safety precautions.
- **Increase of suspicious vehicles in the neighborhood.** With the increase in drivers playing Pokémon Go, neighborhoods are seeing an increase in suspicious activities. Many city parks and points of interest within neighborhoods are PokéStops or Gyms within the game. These in-game stops encourage frequent visitation from players who may not live in the neighborhood. If you see something suspicious, report it to the police. If you notice a pattern of activity, you may have a Stop or a Gym nearby your home which is worth exploring.
- **Lures used at PokéStops.** The lure feature within the game encourages players to convene at a “stop” to increase the chance for a rare reward. These lures make “stops” more attractive to all nearby players who can see the lure activated. This creates a propensity for danger in the wrong hands. Our safety concern exists where a player could use a lure to potentially lure players into becoming victims of crime.
- **Driving Concerns.** You may receive a traffic summons if your distracted driving results in unsafe behaviors. Divided attention while driving could result in a crash, so please put the phone down.

How to play Pokémon Go safely

- Hunt with a buddy or group, especially at night.
- Do not play Pokémon Go while driving; instead, get a designated driver. They can capture the Pokémon for you. Obey all traffic laws and private property laws while hunting.
- Don’t go to lure alone, you never who might have set it.
- Ghost Pokémon don’t spawn in cemeteries, please be respectful and stay out.
- Make this a family adventure, walk with your kids and schedule trips to different points of interest in the City of Virginia Beach.