



Ministerial Statement

By

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Minister of National Security

Personal Safety and Security During the Holiday Period

December 12th, 2025

Mr. Speaker, as we enter the holiday season, I rise today to remind the community of the importance of personal safety and responsible behaviour at this time of year. The Christmas period brings increased social activity, heavier retail traffic, and greater movement around the island. It is a time of celebration, but it is also a period when crimes of opportunity traditionally increase.

Mr. Speaker, safeguarding our communities is a shared responsibility. The Bermuda Police Service will be maintaining an enhanced presence during the holidays. However, the first and most effective layer of protection comes from the public taking simple, common-sense steps to reduce risk.

Homeowners are encouraged to secure windows and doors, use exterior lighting, and ensure that security systems are functioning properly. When purchasing gifts, residents should avoid leaving packaging or high value boxes visible outside, as this can unintentionally signal what is inside the

home. Those travelling off island should make arrangements with family or trusted neighbours to monitor their property.

Mr. Speaker, I also remind the public to take care of their personal safety while out shopping, attending events, and enjoying social gatherings. Individuals should travel with friends or family when possible, remain aware of their surroundings, and avoid carrying or displaying large sums of cash or expensive jewelry. These are routine precautions that help reduce the likelihood of opportunistic theft.

Mr. Speaker, the holiday season brings many office functions, private parties, and social events. I cannot emphasise strongly enough that people should not drink and drive. Bermuda has seen the devastating consequences that impaired driving can cause, and there is simply no justification for taking that risk. I urge the public to use taxis, designated drivers, minibuses, or other alternatives if they plan to consume alcohol. This is not only a matter of personal responsibility but also a matter of protecting lives in the broader community.

Mr. Speaker, the Government remains mindful that the holiday season can be a challenging time for some individuals and families. We continue to monitor conditions across the community and remain focused on reducing risk, deterring crime, and ensuring that people are aware of the support services that are already available in Bermuda. No one should feel pressured into making desperate or harmful choices, and anyone who

needs assistance is encouraged to seek help through the established channels that operate year-round.

In closing, **Mr. Speaker**, I encourage everyone to enjoy the holidays responsibly, look out for one another, and take simple preventive measures to protect themselves and their property. With cooperation, vigilance, and community awareness, we can help ensure that this holiday season is a safe and positive one for all of us.

Thank you, **Mr. Speaker**.