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TO: MIT Community
FROM: The MIT Police Department
DATE: June 28, 2010
RE: 4th of July - Safety Precaution

This year's traditional fireworks celebration on the Esplanade will be held Sunday night, July 4th, 2010. It is said that approximately 800,000 people fill the banks of the Cambridge/Boston Charles River Esplanade area for this celebration; we seek your cooperation with the following:

- 1) In an effort to reduce thefts and increase safety, please secure all office doors, and accessible windows. This will help to reduce the chances of outsiders wandering into MIT buildings. Outsiders may try to gain access due to the excellent view of the fireworks, convenience of bathrooms or the opportunity to steal unlocked and unattended items – laptop computers, digital cameras or the typical wallets and cash.
- 2) Massachusetts General Law, Ch. 148 S. 39 - the simple possession or use of fireworks, or the selling or offering for sale of fireworks is against the law. A violation of this law shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year or both. Please also be advised that the throwing or shooting of fireworks off the rooftops is strictly prohibited. This practice may result in serious injuries to people and property below, and rooftop fires.
- 3) REMEMBER: MIT policy expressly prohibits anyone from accessing any area they do not have permission to access, either through policy or express permission by the proper authority. While most of those areas will have posted prohibitions, or will be secured against access, this policy also covers academic rooftops. Other prohibited areas include: dorms in which you do not reside, after building' posted hours, and areas which may be accessed by others but for which you do not have proper authority to access. Violation of this policy will result in referral to the Office of Student Citizenship, the Committee on Discipline, and/or arrest for trespassing and other related charges.

Our best wishes for a happy and safe Fourth of July. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation on this festive occasion.