Date:        July 15, 2016
Origin:     Department PIO
Contact:    Captain Bob Higginbotham
Phone:     623-3131 #643

NEWS RELEASE

The Joplin Police Department is reminding players of Pokémon Go to stay safe and alert. We are
receiving reports of close calls associated with playing Pokémon Go and we urge gamers to
consider safety over their scores before a life is lost.

Officers are observing near-miss incidents by distracted pedestrians and distracted driving as a
result of drivers on their phones playing the game. This fun game can have tragic real-world
consequences if you’re playing it while driving or crossing the street.

Additionally, numerous individuals are on business, church, and government properties,
including parks, at all hours of the night, when these places are closed to the public. We urge
players to avoid visiting these locales unless during appropriate times. Players should also be
aware that dark and isolated areas, such as a public park after hours, could pose significant and
unnecessary risks.