Dear MSU students:

As all Spartans are, we are very proud of our football program as MSU prepares for the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1. This past football season has shown our student-athletes’ and coaches’ ability to battle adversity and conquer challenges with class and passion.

We write to you now about a different challenge we face. After the Big Ten Championship game on Dec. 7, thousands of Spartans celebrated across campus and the city of East Lansing. We want to thank all the true Spartans – by far the vast majority – who celebrated safely and peacefully. Unfortunately, a small number of celebrants disregarded the safety of the others and destroyed property, and in doing so, embarrassed themselves and the university.

All appropriate action will be taken against any student who takes part in setting or fueling a fire, throws objects at authorities or destroys property. Rest assured such behavior will not be tolerated. It is not how true Spartans conduct themselves. As the Rose Bowl nears, it is important for students to remember:

- Students who set or fuel a fire or destroy property will face criminal charges once they are identified. East Lansing and MSU Police will use all means necessary, including monitoring Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other social media to identify those who commit crimes.
- In addition to criminal charges, any student taking part in such activities will face action through the MSU student judicial process. Penalties include sanctions up to dismissal from the university.
- In East Lansing, anyone within 300 feet of an open fire and is not leaving the area faces a disorderly conduct charge, even if they are simply watching the fire. The misdemeanor charge is punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a $500 fine.
- If a situation feels wrong to you or your friends, say something and do something. It’s always better to leave or intervene than to do nothing.
- Be a good neighbor regardless of where you are, and be respectful of the impact your actions may have on those around you.
- For those traveling to Pasadena, remember that you are representing the entire Spartan Family. Watch out for your friends and ask them to watch out for you. Be aware of the local laws and ordinances; they may be different than in East Lansing and will determine if you face any legal actions for your behavior.

Let’s be clear: We want and expect all Spartan fans – students, alumni and community members – to celebrate our athletic achievements. We have been fortunate to have much success to celebrate. But all of our fans need to celebrate responsibly and safely. We call on all of our students to set an example as we cheer on MSU with both passion and class.