

First, "Thank you for your service".

My name is Barry Lewis, I am a downtown resident, taxpayer, a registered voter and a member of the Board of the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association, DANA.

I speak on behalf of DANA and my family in support of the request for 92 additional officers.

Abit of history: In 2012 APD instituted its regular "Public Order Initiative" in response to increased crime stats downtown. Crime decreased substantially. In early 2013 the Public Order Initiative was suspended. Crime downtown rapidly escalated. APD reinstated a Downtown Unified Command and the Public Order Initiative. Crime downtown again decreased substantially.

If people do not feel safe Downtown, they will not come Downtown. COA suffers decreased Sales, Hotel Occupancy and property taxes. Perception is important. The presence and visibility of uniformed officers is an important component of public perception. Both the PERF survey and the 2012 DANA survey indicate that over half of those who responded do not feel safe downtown at night.

DANA urges you to recommend budget approval for the additional 92 officers.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on this important issue.