



# Crime in the Downtown Area

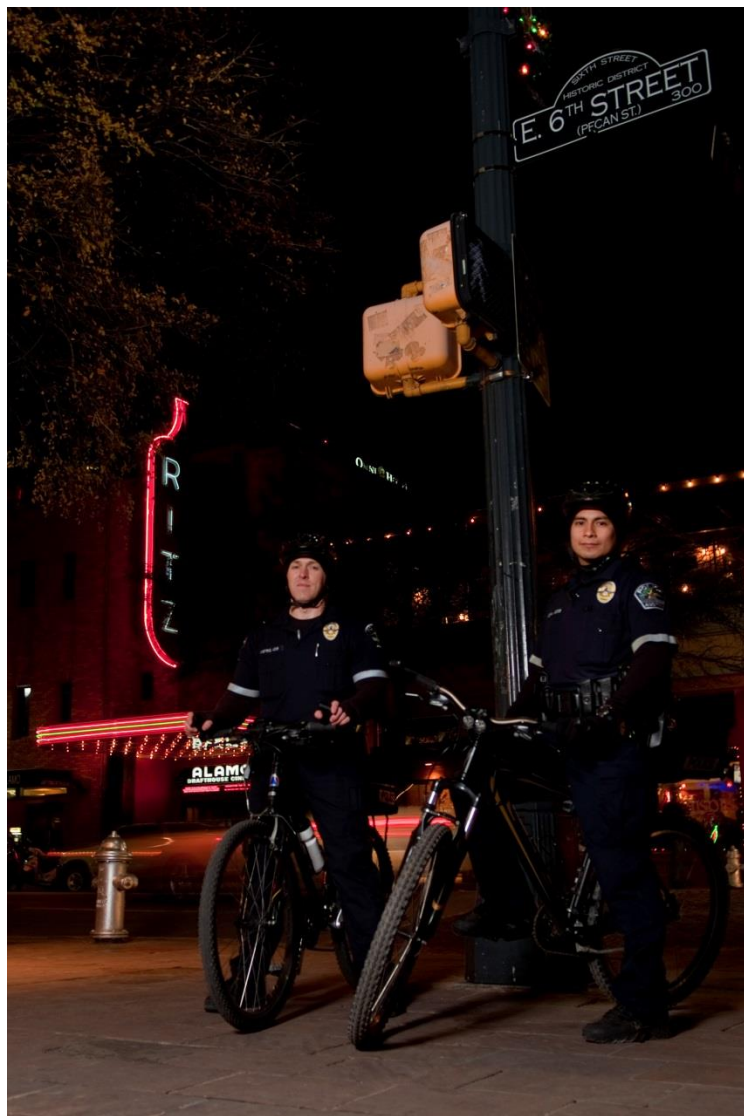
Public Safety Commission

April 7<sup>th</sup> 2014





# Agenda

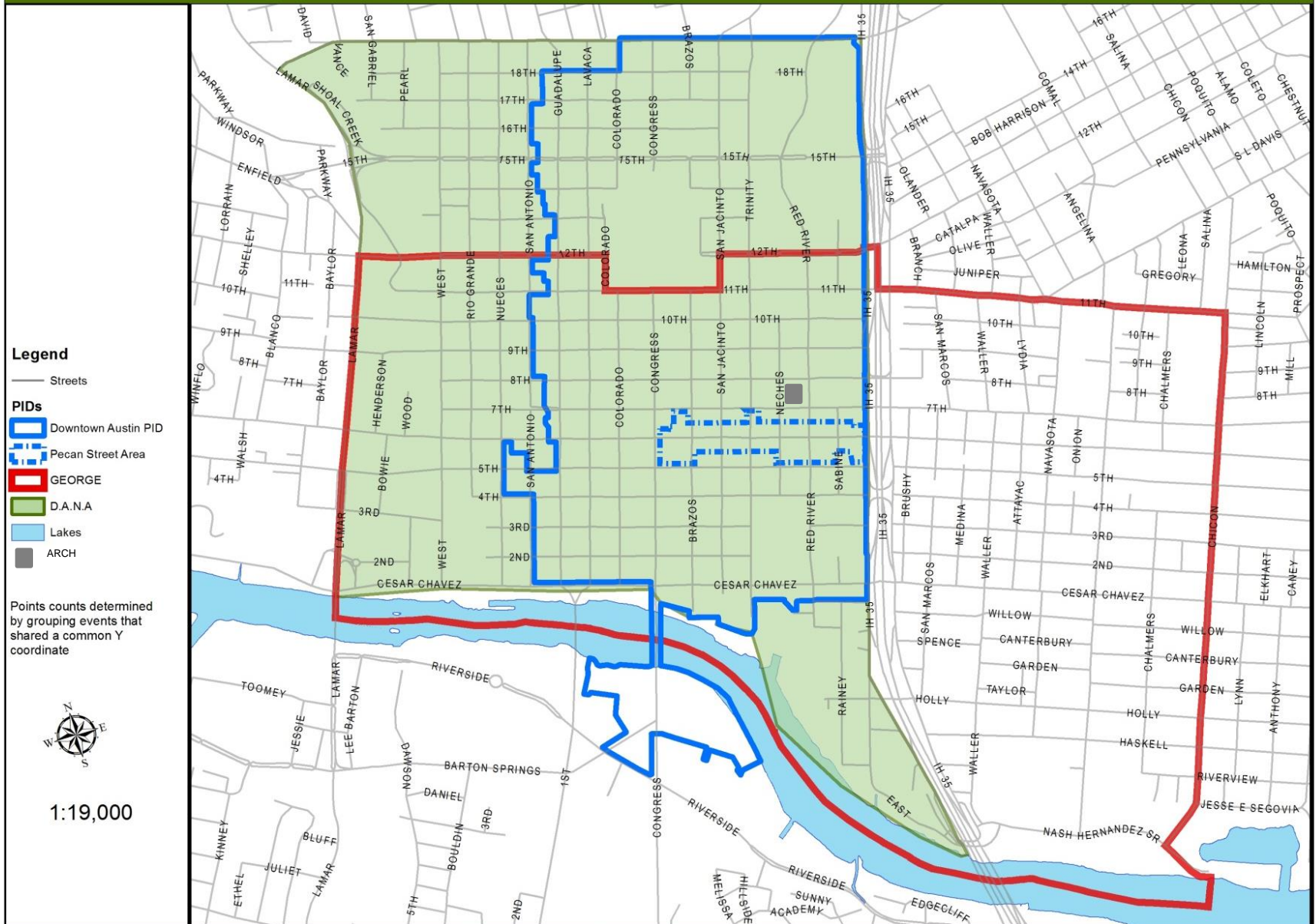


Geographic area of George  
DTAC Staffing  
Overview of Crime in the Downtown Area  
Services Demand  
Challenges to policing DTAC  
Counter-Drug Operations in DTAC  
The Costs of policing the Downtown Area



# Austin's Center of Gravity

## George Sector, Public Improvement Districts, and Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association



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Crime Analysis Unit





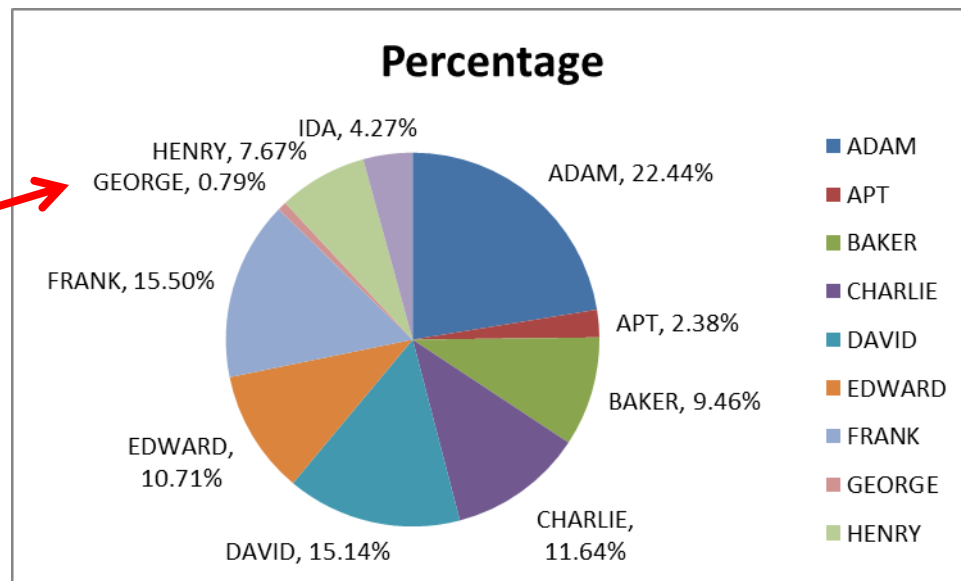
# How George Compares:

*Smallest geographic area with a very dense population*

**George Population:** 10,623 Residents  
2300-5800 Homeless/Transients  
6,500 Hotel Rooms  
F1 FanFest: Estimated at 20,000+  
SXSW: 30,000+/day  
Fun Fun Fun: 18,000+/day

REGION	LAND SIZE
ADAM	22.44%
APT	2.38%
BAKER	9.46%
CHARLIE	11.64%
DAVID	15.14%
EDWARD	10.71%
FRANK	15.50%
GEORGE	0.79%
HENRY	7.67%
IDA	4.27%

*“Entertainment population” can easily quadruple the amount of normal downtown attendance*





# DTAC Staffing

POSITION	AUTHORIZED	ON HAND
COMMANDER	1	1
LIEUTENANT	5	5
SERGEANT	11	11
CORPORAL	8	8
OFFICER	81	70
MOUTED POLICE	8	8

## HOW THEY ARE USED:

Patrol Shifts (8)

- District Representatives (6)
- Metro Tactical Team (one team of 8 + SGT)
- Some shifts often held over
- Parks, Mounted Patrol also brought in

## ON A TYPICAL WEEKEND NIGHT:

SHIFT	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12PM	1AM	2AM	3AM	4AM	5AM
2PM-MIDNIGHT																
5PM-3AM																
8PM-6AM																

### IF APD DIDN'T AUGMENT:

24 Officers on shift from 8p-12a; 16 Officers on shift during **bar closing** time, policing a population of up to 30,000+



# Overview of Crime in George

## Violent/property crime for 2013

VIOLENT CRIME 2013	GEORGE			CITYWIDE	
	2012 YTD	2013 YTD	YTD % Change	Total	% of Crime
Homicide	2	3	50%	28	10.7
Rape	17	15	-12%	211	7%
Robbery-Bank	1	0	-100%	17	0
Robbery-Business	4	3	-25%	145	2%
Robbery-Individual	101	84	-17%	603	13.9%
Agg Assault no FV	160	95	-41%	907	10.4%
Agg Assault FV	26	21	-19%	1025	2%
Total Violent	311	221	-29%	2936	7.5%

PROPERTY CRIME 2013	GEORGE			CITYWIDE	
	2012 YTD	2013 YTD	YTD % Change	Total	% of Crime
Burglary-Non-Residence	80	84	5%	1761	4.7%
Burglary-Residence	46	60	30%	4576	1.3%
Auto Theft	88	97	10%	2053	4.7%
BOV	758	739	-3%	12905	5.7%
Other Part I Theft	1797	1753	-2%	19571	8.9%
Total Property	2769	2733	-1%	40,866	6.6%

### Drop in violent crime attributed to several 2013 initiatives:

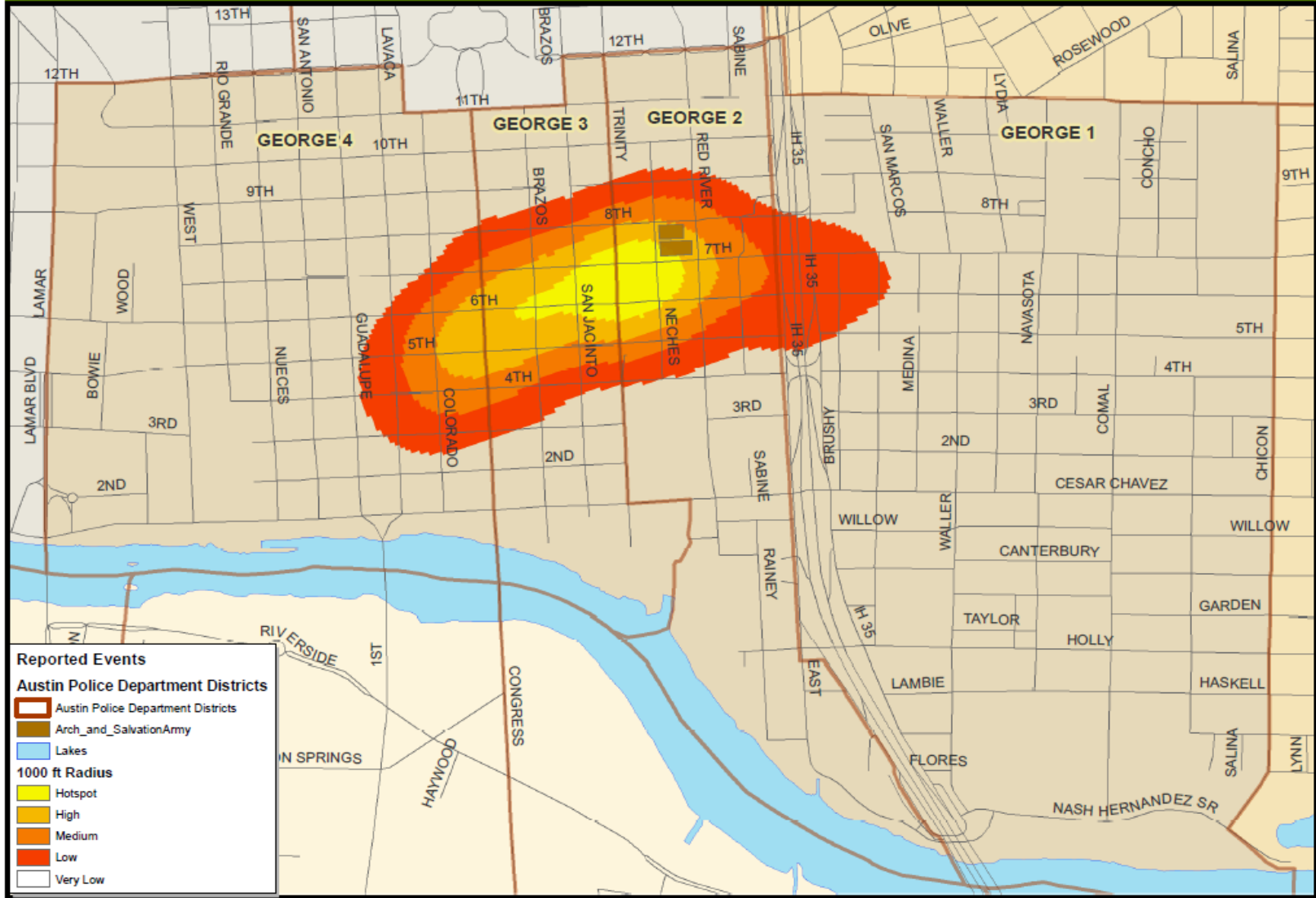
- Public Order Initiative*: Additional officers on the street proactively addressing behavior that leads to typical George crime before nighttime visitors come and during bar closing
- Operation Safe Assistance*: Narcotics operations conducted in May and September that targeted dealers and high consumers of police services
- Jail Booking Initiative*: The Department paid overtime to have additional resources available to process prisoners at the jail, which allowed Police resources to quickly return to service
- Paid Overtime*: Without paying overtime, APD would be challenged to maintain adequate staffing levels given the demand
- Additional resources*: Reinforced the downtown area on several occasions with additional officers, Parks, and Mounted Police in support of events with the focus of reducing violent crime



# 2013 Violent Crimes

Source: Versadex, General Offense Reports

## Hotspot for Violent Crimes: Downtown Area Command 2013



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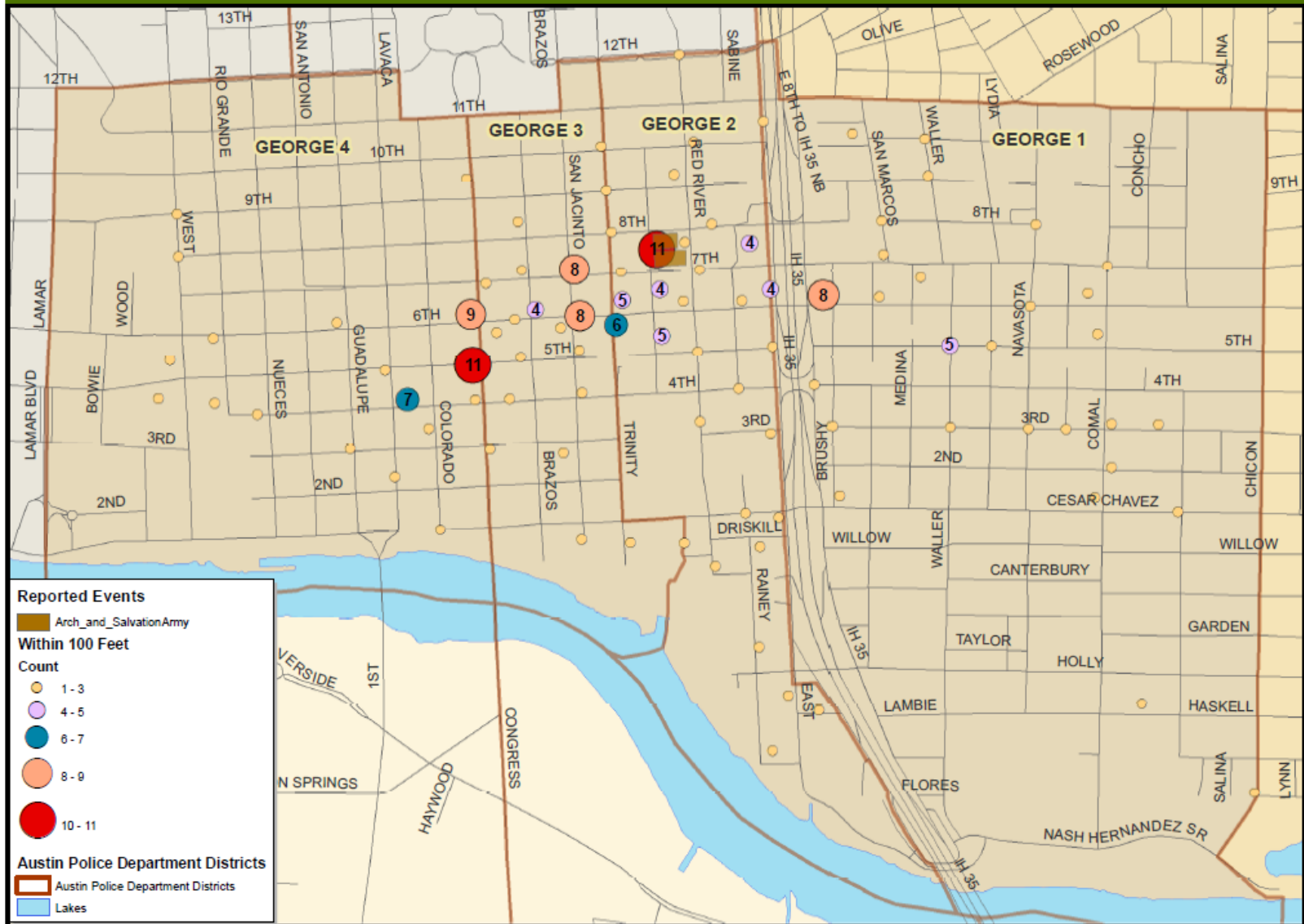
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# 2013 Violent Crimes

Grouping of Violent Crimes: *Downtown Area Command 2013*



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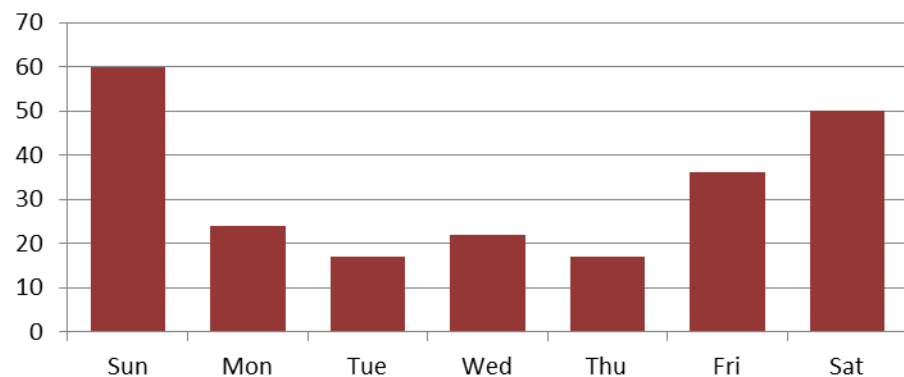


# When Are Services In Most Demand?



Source: Versadex, General Offense Reports

## Day of Week for Violent Crimes



## Time of Day for Violent Crimes

Day of Week	0 - 3	3 - 6	6 - 9	9 - 12	12 - 15	15 - 18	18 - 21	21 - 24	Total
Sun	28	17	3	3	2	3	3	1	60
Mon	2	4	3	3	1	2	6	3	24
Tue	7	3	2			1		4	17
Wed	3		1	5	3	3	1	6	22
Thu	9	3			1	1	2	1	17
Fri	8	7	3	4	2	3	3	6	36
Sat	18	11	3	2	3	1	5	7	50
Grand Total	75	45	15	17	12	14	20	28	226

Sundays followed by Saturdays are most likely day

Most likely times:

Sunday 0000-0300

Saturday 0000-0300

Sunday 0300-0600

Initiatives for 2014 like Operation Safe Passage created to mitigate this high crime window

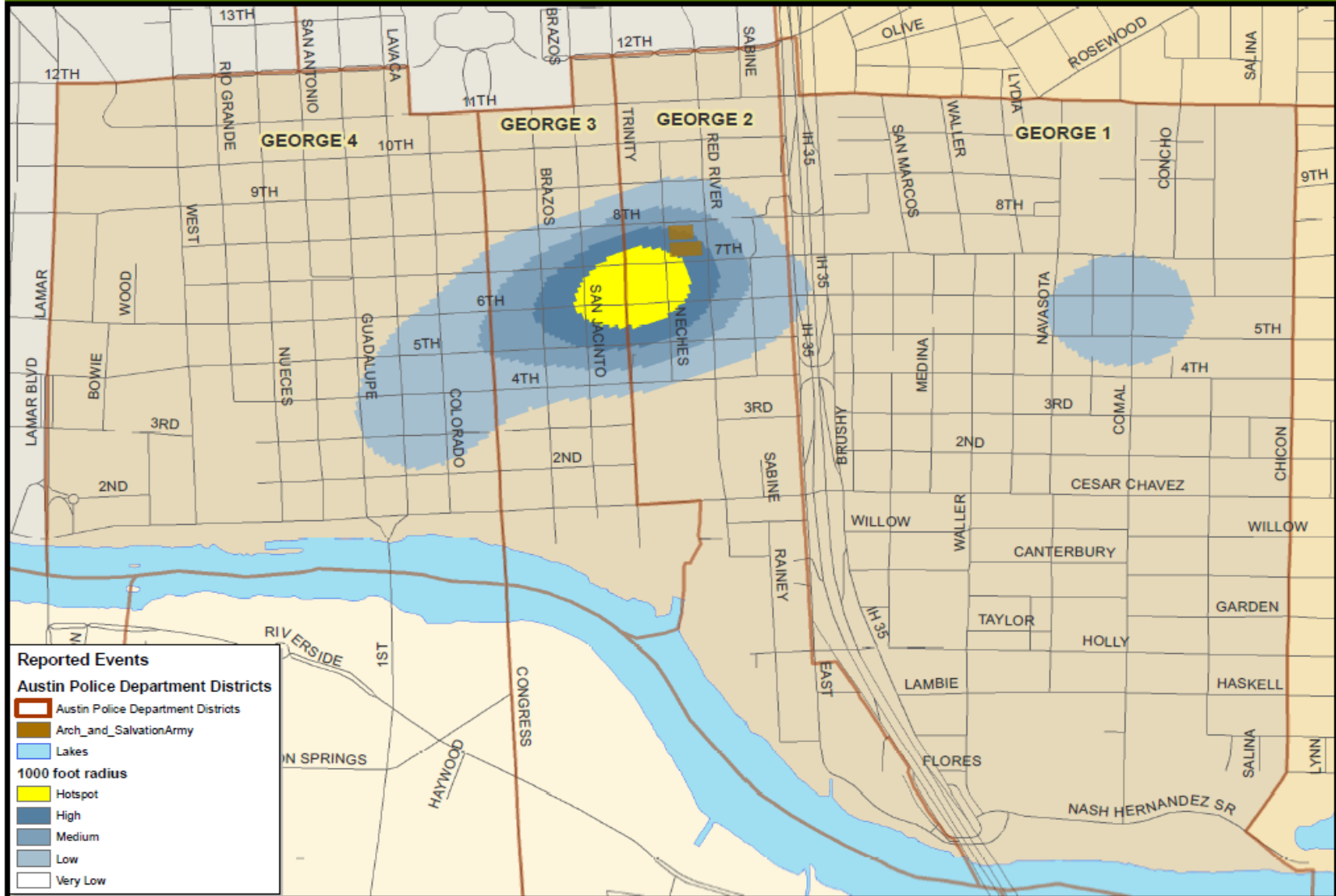


# 2013 Property Crimes

Source: Versadex, General Offense Reports



## Hotspot for Property Crimes: Downtown Area Command 2013



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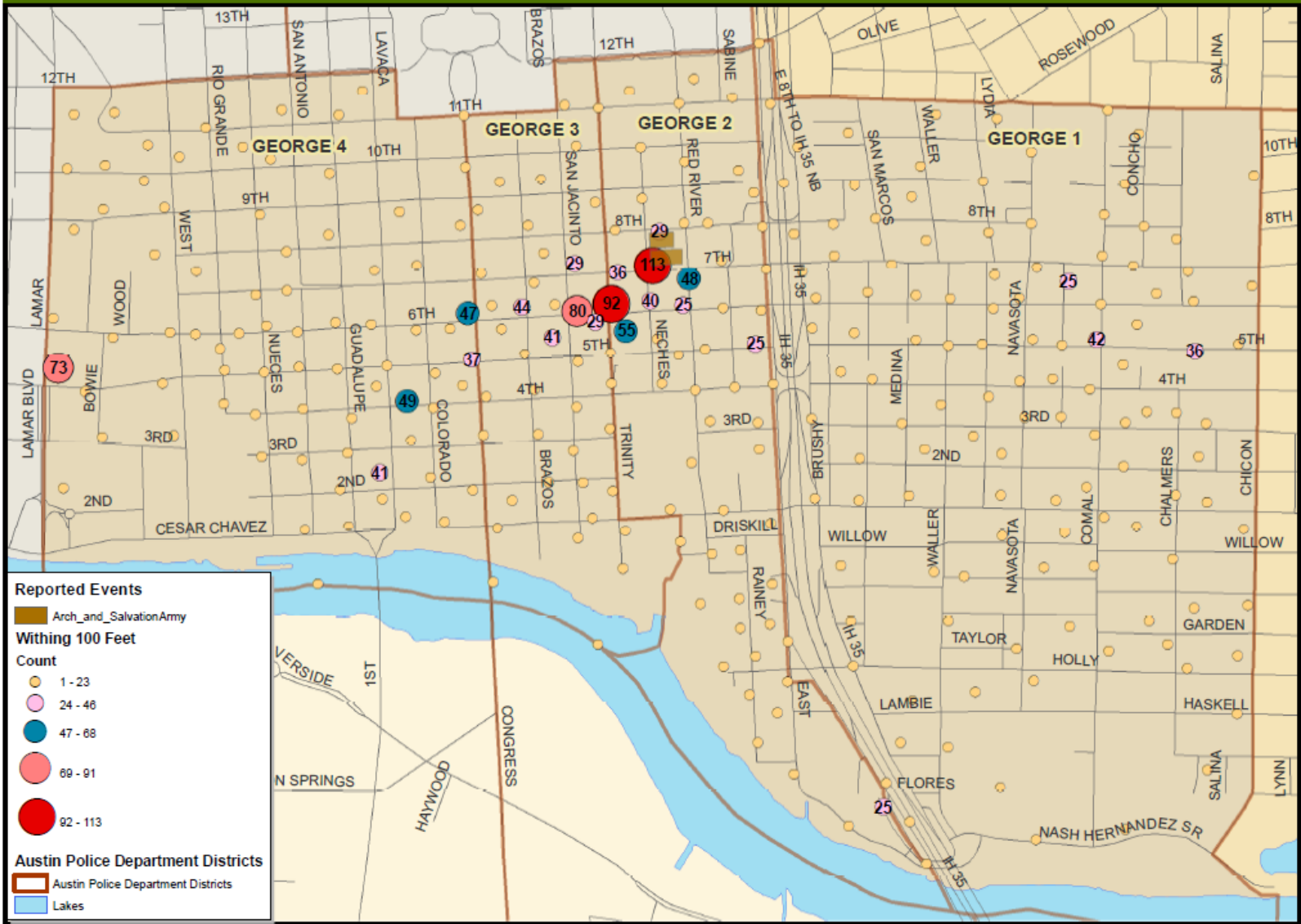
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# 2013 Property Crimes

Grouping of Property Crimes: *Downtown Area Command 2013*



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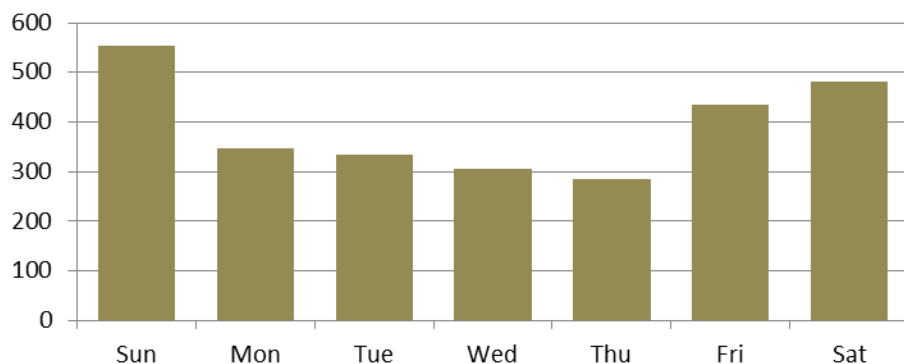


# When Are Services In Most Demand?



Source: Versadex, General Offense Reports

## Day of Week for Property Crimes



## Time of Day for Property Crimes

Day of Week	0 - 3	3 - 6	6 - 9	9 - 12	12 - 15	15 - 18	18 - 21	21 - 24	Total
Sun	163	100	62	42	43	37	56	51	554
Mon	80	57	46	26	33	31	39	35	347
Tue	74	49	29	21	34	38	34	56	335
Wed	67	40	31	27	38	34	30	38	305
Thu	65	27	21	22	28	20	38	65	286
Fri	130	47	49	38	34	40	35	63	436
Sat	140	82	41	33	35	43	42	65	481
Total	719	402	279	209	245	243	274	373	2744

Identifying exact property crime incident loss is challenging, but based on reporting:

Most likely windows:

Sundays 0000-0300

Saturdays 0000-0300

Fridays 0000-0300





# Specific Crime Challenges in DTAC



City's high concentration of alcohol-related businesses (57) that all close at 2AM

- 32% (1,363 of 4,201) of the City's Public Intoxication arrests come from George
- Fourth highest DUI count in the City (out of nine sectors) at 729

Large volume of tourist and event population can quadruple the normal downtown population

Pinpointed window of high crime opportunity (weekends, 0000-0300)

Centralized transient population rife with mental health, substance abuse issues

- 67% of DTAC Homicide
- 20% of DTAC Rape
- 22% of DTAC Robbery
- 28% of Aggravated Assaults



207 total incidents; 25% involved transients as victims, suspects, or both

Special events place an increased demand on emergency services capability



# Counter-Drug Operations

**Operation Safe Assistance:** A narcotics sting operation conducted in May 2013 that focused on dealers and buyers who preyed on the vulnerable population seeking assistance from social services. Working with partners like the Downtown Austin Alliance, Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA), the Texas Bar and Night Club Association, and social service providers such as the ARCH and other stakeholders, APD identified the primary areas of activity near 4<sup>th</sup> and Sabine Streets and the area surrounding the ARCH and Salvation Army.

- 70 warrants for Delivery of a Controlled Substance, POCS, Delivery of a Dangerous Drug
- 50 individuals had charges filed on them. Charges ranged from State Jail Felony to 2d Degree Felony. These 50 individuals collectively had over 3200 encounters with APD, taxing police services and preventing officers from working on other community problems

These suspects had previously been charged or suspected to have been involved in:

- 75 cases of Robbery, Aggravated Robbery or Assault
- 4 Aggravated Assault on a Police Officer
- 15 had weapons charges
- 176 Burglaries, Forgeries, Auto Theft or Theft
- 5 were documented gang members

**Result:** A 40% drop in violent crime and a 46% reduction in burglary of non-residences compared to the same time period of 2012.

**Operation Safe Assistance II:** Conducted from July 11<sup>th</sup> – September 4<sup>th</sup> near 4<sup>th</sup> and Sabine and areas around the ARCH and Salvation Army.

- Citizens reported suspect descriptions, high times of drug activity, vehicle descriptions and plates
- 40 warrants for Delivery of a Controlled Substance, POCS, Delivery of a Dangerous Drug
- 33 individuals responsible for 1,842 APD involvements (200 felony offenses and 285 misdemeanors)
- 36% reduction in violent crime, 45% reduction in aggravated assaults (excluding FV) YTD through August 30<sup>th</sup> of 2013



# The Cost of Policing DTAC

**Overtime is a must in order to maintain the level of service and order**

Overtime spent for 2013: \$910,000

Caritas Operation: \$44,000

October 2013 - March 2014: \$505,184 in overtime paid out

## 2014 Overtime:

January: 639 hours- Patrol = \$34,232

February: 245 hours- Safe Passage = \$13,757





# The Way Ahead

Downtown remains the Center of Gravity for the City

Continued growth (hotels, condominiums, festivals) are the future of Downtown Austin

Downtown partners are instrumental in assisting with safety

Staffing Patrol to adequate levels is a significant challenge during peak service hours

Continued creative ways to police:

- HALO cameras are a valued resource and have been instrumental in helping reduce downtown crime

- Jail Diversion Program

- Sobriety Center