



# Downtown Commission Meeting

**Large Event/Mass Casualty Preparedness**  
Austin Police Department



# SXSW Conference & Festivals 2023

Held March 6–19, 2023 in Austin, the SXSW Conference & Festivals and SXSW EDU drew participation totaling approximately **345,066**.

- **90+ venues** with authorized SXSW Activations
- Numerous unauthorized activations



# STAFFING

## DTAC Patrol Shifts (Day, Evening, Night):

- Staffed at 100% + for the duration of SXSW.
- Additional call taking shifts hired:
  - Inside the closure versus outside (Red River Cultural District, West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, & Rainey Street)
- Special Event Assignments
  - Barricades, sound, traffic, etc.



# DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Standard Police Operations
- Street Closures/Barricade Officers – APD/Other Central Texas LE Agencies
- Towing Enforcement Shifts
- Additional Call Taking Shifts
- PACE Teams – Code Enforcement
- Traffic Congestion Shift
- Sound Enforcement – 2 officers per day



# ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSE

- In addition to the officers assigned to the Downtown Area Command, officers from all over the department will assist during SXSW to ensure public safety throughout the event:
  - Counter Assault Strike Team (CAST)
  - Mounted
  - EOD (Bomb Squad)
  - Special Response Team (SRT)
  - Organized Crime Division (OCD)
    - State and Federal Partners
  - Metro Tactical Units
  - RTF & QRF



# SXSW VIOLENT CRIME INITIATIVE

Started in 2022, the SXSW Violent Crime Initiative is a joint effort from the Austin Police Department (APD) Violent Crimes Interdiction Unit, Organized Crime Division (including State and Federal partners), Tactical Intelligence Unit, and Metro Tactical Units. The initiative runs throughout SXSW and yielded the following results:

**2022**

## APD Total

- **130 arrests**
- **61 seized firearms**

**2023**

Arrests, Charges, & Seizures	<b>Arrests</b>	<b>131</b>
	<b>Seized Firearms</b>	<b>61</b>
	<b>Cocaine/Crack</b>	<b>3.5kg</b>
	<b>Fentanyl/Heroin</b>	<b>41.38g</b>
	<b>Methamphetamine</b>	<b>26.6kg</b>
	<b>Marijuana</b>	<b>98lbs</b>
	<b>Currency</b>	<b>\$173,462</b>

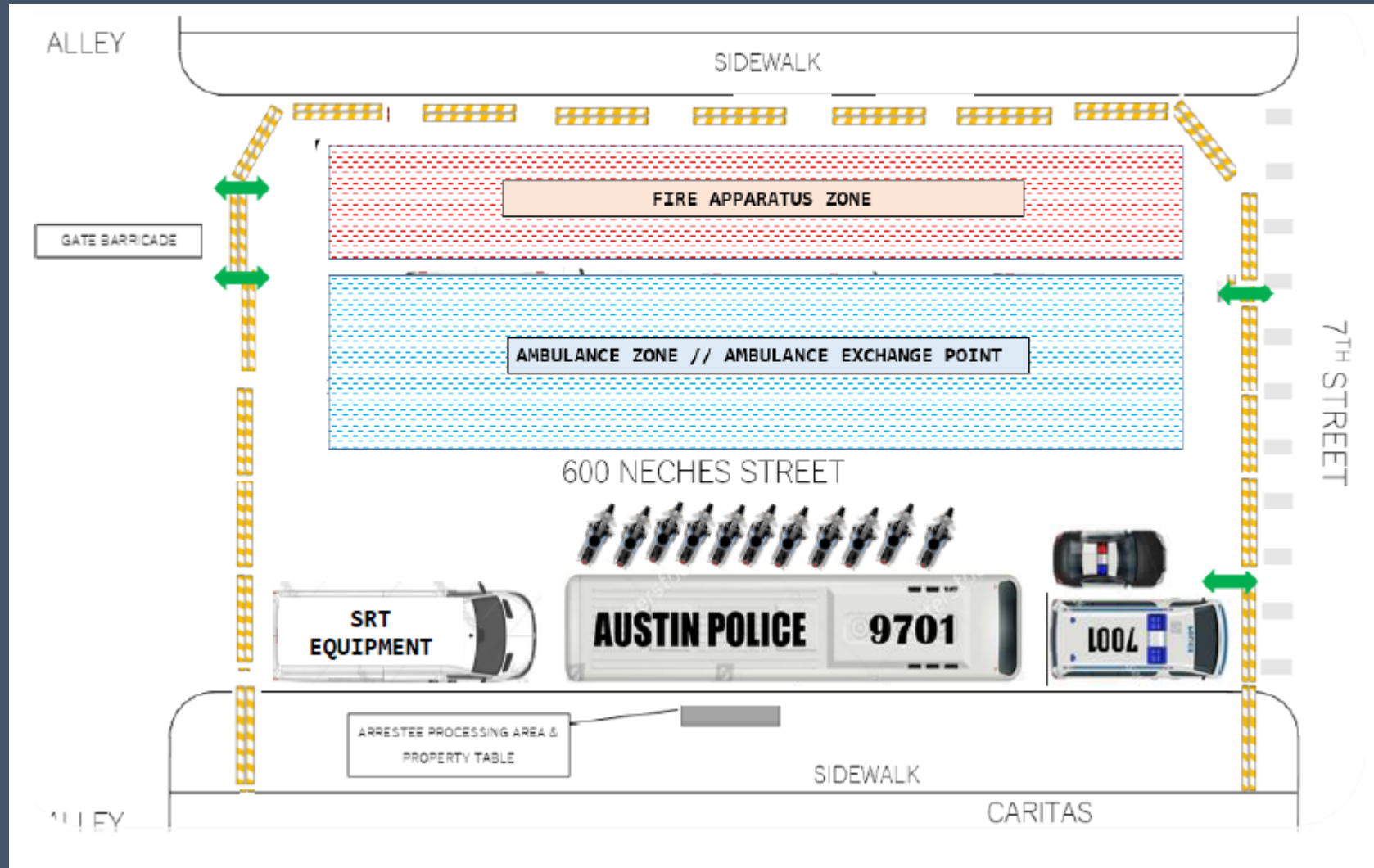


# UNIFIED COMMAND

- SXSU Representatives
- Austin PD
- Austin FD
- ATCEMS
- COA Homeland Security  
Emergency Management (HSEM)
- COA Transportation
- COA Code Enforcement
- COA Public Information Office  
(PIO)
- Austin Regional Intelligence  
Center (ARIC)



# PUBLIC SAFETY AREA







# MERIDIAN HEAVY BARRICADES

APD utilizes mobile heavy barricades to protect pedestrians inside of the public safety closure areas from vehicular traffic.



# Questions?

