




## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Chief Joseph Chacon, Austin Police Department 

**DATE:** June 30, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Staff Response: Resolution No. 20230413-077 – Safer 6th

---

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information related to the Safer Sixth Street Resolutions, with Resolution [20230413-077](#) also specifically including directives related to safety plans for the Rainey Street Historic District.

The Austin Police Department (APD) and Development Services Department (DSD) are working collaboratively with stakeholders to advance public safety in the downtown area.

Below is a summary of updates from this partnership:

- APD purchased 13 additional HALO cameras and they are now operational. Hand-held metal detector wands and similar technology are not planned purchases because APD does not search individuals for weapons without cause. Officers who work in the downtown area are trained to observe crowds and be aware of potential weapons.
- APD worked alongside the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission (TABC) to address overserving of alcohol, and TABC completed inspections on bars with open complaints. This investigation work remains ongoing and APD will continue to partner with TABC to address future complaints.
- APD has initiated directed patrols on Rainey Street, with officers from both the Downtown Area Command (DTAC) and Mounted Patrol units providing increased patrols in this district.
- APD and DSD's Nightlife & Entertainment Division have been collaborating on planning and management efforts for the 6th Street entertainment district that complement policing and seek to contribute to a safe entertainment district. Many of these efforts are also being expanded to the other downtown entertainment districts. An important component of the initiative is enhancing bar operator partnerships to increase safety through communication, training, and increased operating standards.
  - The Nightlife Establishment Training Program was launched in April, with a joint Active Shooter Response and Stop the Bleed training provided by APD and Austin-Travis County EMS (ATCEMS) on April 27, 2023. The training was made available to 6th Street, Rainey Street, and West 6th Street bar owners. 35 staff members from all three

entertainment districts attended this training. Training seminars will continue to be offered and additional safety trainings will be added as the program moves forward.

- The Nightlife Establishment Accreditation Program will be launched soon. The goal of the program is to enhance bar operating standards by participating in a voluntary accreditation program that requires them to adopt policies and procedures, implement best practices and participate in required trainings. This program will be available to all bar owners and other stakeholders in the downtown entertainment districts. DSD will be responsible for the accreditation program, with collaboration from APD.

Should you have questions or need more information please contact APD Commander Jeff Olson at [Jeff.Olson@austintexas.gov](mailto:Jeff.Olson@austintexas.gov).

cc: Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager  
Bruce Mills, Interim Assistant City Manager