



**SXSW Conference & Spring Festivals 2024**  
**Austin Police Department – Downtown Area Command**



# SXSW OVERVIEW

- March 8<sup>th</sup> - March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- The 2023 SXSW Conference & Festivals and SXSW EDU drew approximately **345,066 people**
- **~60 venues** have authorized SXSW Activations
- Numerous unauthorized activations



# STAFFING

- **DTAC Days:** Staffed at 100% + for the duration of SXSW.
- **DTAC Evenings/Nights:** Staffed at 100% + for the duration of SXSW.
- **Inside 6<sup>th</sup>** - Designated patrol area inside the 6<sup>th</sup> Street/Red River enclosure.
- **Outside 6<sup>th</sup>** - Designated patrol area outside the 6<sup>th</sup> Street enclosure (Call takers).
- **Additional patrols for Congress Ave, Warehouse District, W 6<sup>th</sup> St District, and Rainey District.**

## DTAC Call Takers

- Overtime officers are hired to support call taking duties outside 6th St/Red River closure.



# 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



# A TEAM EFFORT

- In addition to the officers assigned to the Downtown Area Command, officers from all over the department will assist during Spring Festival Season to ensure public safety throughout the event:
  - Counter Assault Strike Team (CAST)
  - Mounted
  - EOD (Bomb Squad)
  - Special response Team (SRT)
  - Organized Crime Division (OCD)
  - Metro Tactical Units



## 2023 SPRING FESTIVAL SEASON VIOLENT CRIME INITIATIVE

The 2023 Spring Festival Season Violent Crime Initiative was a joint effort from the Austin Police Department (APD) Violent Crimes Interdiction Unit, Organized Crime Division, Tactical Intelligence Unit, and Metro Tactical Units, the Downtown Area Command and the Special Response Team. The initiative ran between March 8th - March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This initiative yielded:

- **131 Arrests/61 Seized Firearms**
- **Seized Narcotics: 3.5 kg cocaine, 26.6 kg of methamphetamine, 41.38 g fentanyl/heroin, and 90 pounds of marijuana.**

From March 15<sup>th</sup> – March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (last weekend on E 6<sup>th</sup> St/Red River St) the Special Response Team and the Downtown Area Command had :

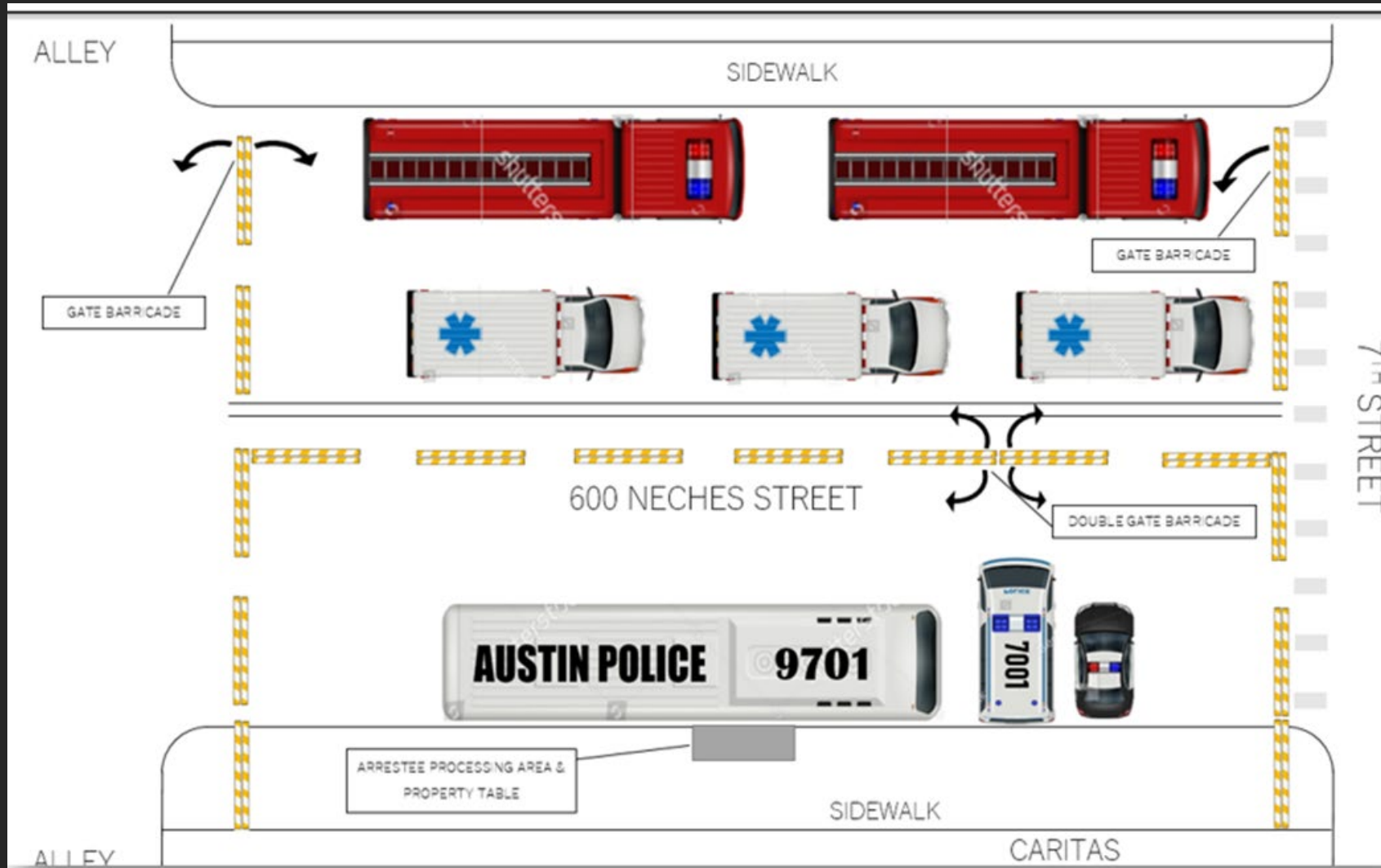
- **77 Arrests/26 Seized Firearms**
- **Seized Narcotics: 26.69 g cocaine, 31.32 g methamphetamine, 8.15g fentanyl**



# 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 will be utilizing mobile heavy barricades to protect pedestrians inside of the public safety closure areas from vehicular traffic.





# 911 vs. 311

## When should someone call 911?

- There is an imminent threat to life or property.
- There is injury that requires immediate medical attention.
- There is injury stemming from an assault, regardless of timeframe.
- When a suspect involved in a crime is on scene of the incident or within sight.
- **Important: If you are unsure whether to call 911 or 311, you should call 911 and let a trained operator route the call appropriately.**



# IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

*Public safety and security is everyone's responsibility. If you see suspicious activity, report it to local law enforcement or a person of authority.*



### EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED THREAT

Threatening to commit a crime that could harm or kill people or damage a facility, infrastructure, or secured site



### SURVEILLANCE

A prolonged interest in or taking pictures/videos of personnel, facilities, security features, or infrastructure in an unusual or covert manner



### THEFT/LOSS/DIVERSION

Stealing or diverting items—such as equipment, uniforms, or badges—that belong to a facility or secured site



### TESTING OR PROBING OF SECURITY

Investigating or testing a facility's security or IT systems to assess the strength or weakness of the target



### AVIATION ACTIVITY

Operating or interfering with the operation of an aircraft that poses a threat of harm to people and property



### BREACH/ATTEMPTED INTRUSION

Unauthorized people trying to enter a restricted area or impersonating authorized personnel



### ACQUISITION OF EXPERTISE

Gaining skills or knowledge on a specific topic, such as facility security, military tactics, or flying an aircraft



### ELICITING INFORMATION

Questioning personnel beyond mere curiosity about an event, facility, or operations



### MISREPRESENTATION

Presenting false information or misusing documents to conceal possible illegal activity



### CYBERATTACK

Disrupting or compromising an organization's information technology systems



### RECRUITING/FINANCING

Funding suspicious or criminal activity or recruiting people to participate in criminal or terrorist activity



### SABOTAGE/TAMPERING/VANDALISM

Damaging or destroying part of a facility, infrastructure, or secured site



### MATERIALS ACQUISITION/STORAGE

Acquisition and/or storage of unusual materials such as cell phones, radio controllers, or toxic materials



### WEAPONS COLLECTION/STORAGE

Collection or discovery of unusual amounts of weapons including explosives, chemicals, or other destructive materials



### SECTOR-SPECIFIC INCIDENT

Actions which raise concern to specific sectors, (e.g., power plant) with regard to their personnel, facilities, systems, or functions