

Downtown Madison, Inc. (DMI)
Quality of Life/Safety Committee
Actions for Improving the Safety & Quality of Life for Downtown Madison
May, 2016

Background:

In the downtown Madison area, crime data demonstrate that a small population of offenders is responsible for a high percentage of crimes, such as drug offenses, drug-related property crimes, trespassing, public disturbances and threatening behaviors. Existing data also show that a high percentage of offenders have underlying mental health and addiction issues.

The incidents of crime in the downtown area has led to support for a public, private working model that includes law enforcement, elected officials, social services agencies, business owners, neighborhood associations and other stakeholders. By working together, we believe that we can raise awareness and increase services to reduce crime rates and improve the quality of life for people living, working and visiting downtown Madison.

Suggested actions to address behaviors:

- Enforce current City of Madison laws (on the books) that directly focus on behaviors and devote the necessary resources as needed.
- When behavior warrants, participate with law enforcement professionals in setting patrol and enforcement priorities.
- DMI (along with collaborating organizations) will support referrals to housing and social services for individuals with mental health and/or addiction services by creating a public awareness campaign, similar to the previously successful ReachOut program.
- Dedicate additional funds to increase downtown Outreach workers in the greater State Street area.
- City of Madison will increase the lighting in areas of the downtown (public/private properties) that are currently dark and attract criminal behavior.
- City of Madison will add additional cameras to the State Street/Capitol Square area with particular attention to State at Gorham and State at Johnson.
- Work with the downtown businesses on safety information for downtown workers.
- Encourage private property owners to post “No Trespassing” signs (in areas where needed) on their property in a manner that does not give a negative message to customers.
- Post attractive/welcoming “Expected Behavior” signs that lists (agreed upon) City of Madison expected behaviors in public/strategic areas within the BID—possibly lower State Street/Library Mall, Lisa Link Peace Park and upper State Street.

The DMI Quality of Life/Safety Committee and (collaborating organizations) will continue to convene, and work with the City of Madison to implement/monitor these strategies/actions so that downtown Madison is a safe place to live, work, play and visit for everyone.