



jacksonville

DOWNTOWN IS ONE OF THE SAFEST NEIGHBORHOODS IN JACKSONVILLE

A Downtown Vision, Inc. Safety Paper

Downtown has a low incidence of crime compared with the City as a whole. Crime in the greater Downtown area accounts for only 2% of the priority criminal incidents in the City of Jacksonville, and the Downtown Business Improvement District accounts for only 1% of these incidents, according to data provided by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO).

The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office has 20 officers assigned to cover the Downtown area on any given day – more officers per square mile than any other Jacksonville neighborhood. A 6-person bike squad is part of the regular weekday deployment in Downtown. Additionally, JSO regularly deploys extra officers Downtown for ongoing special events including community and holiday events, parades, races and football games.

Downtown Ambassadors – Your Safety and Hospitality Team. Ambassadors patrol 424 hours a week to make sure Downtown residents, employees and visitors feel extra safe, and are available for employee escorts upon request during regular operating hours. To request an escort, contact the Downtown Ambassadors at (904) 465-7980.

Downtown has one of the most active Sheriff's Advisory Councils (ShAdCo) in the city. ShAdCo provides an opportunity for Downtown stakeholders to talk regularly with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office to discuss areas of concern. Additionally, there are a number of other neighborhood watch and community organizations involved in making Downtown a safe neighborhood.

Downtown is part of the Riverfront Enhancement Area, where it is illegal to panhandle and sleep on public property. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office has responded to concerns about Downtown safety and the perception of safety and has increased enforcement of nuisance ordinances. To report panhandling or suspicious activity, contact JSO at (904) 630-0500.

The **High Intensity Trespassing Zone** allows the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office to keep an eye on Downtown businesses or properties and address nuisance activity in the owner's absence.

Our **Downtown Information & Safety Network** is an email network used to notify Downtown property owners about issues relating to Downtown safety and street closures. Sign up to receive this and other e-newsletters at downtownjacksonville.org.

Employee Safety Presentations. Downtown Vision, Inc. and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office partner to offer employee safety presentations to businesses located in or relocating to Downtown. Contact DVI to schedule a presentation.

For more information on Downtown safety, contact Downtown Vision, Inc.'s Director of District Services, Jennifer Hewett-Apperson, at (904) 634-0303 ext 224.

Note: The boundaries of Downtown as defined by the City of Jacksonville are I-95 to the south and west, State Street to the north, and the St. Johns River to the east.