

Downtown Safety Patrols

Frequently Asked Questions

February 9, 2022

1) How are the downtown safety patrols funded? What is the cost to the City? What is the term?

The private security contract with Risk Solutions Unlimited (RSU) is paid for through the City's general fund. The contract amount is \$76,440 for 24 hour a day, 7 day a week patrols from January-April 2022. This is an interim solution until a downtown safety ambassador program is launched this spring.

2) What is the role of police with safety patrols now in place? Is private security replacing officers? How are the roles of private security and police different? Why do we need both?

The role of police is not affected by private security, and the private security guards do not replace police officers. The purpose of downtown safety patrols is to add additional "eyes on the street" to deter crime, assist those in need, and support other downtown service providers such as the [Homeless Outreach Team](#). If private security guards witness a crime in progress, they will call 911. The 911 dispatch center may also contact private security staff to provide assistance in situations that don't benefit from a police response.

3) Can members of the public contact the downtown safety patrol staff directly?

Yes, members of the public may contact RSU with non-emergency safety concerns, questions or to request an escort. They may be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at this toll-free number:

#800-824-2383

There is only one security guard on duty at any given time, so response times may vary depending on the amount of activity.

4) Do private security guards have training in de-escalation and navigating individuals in distress to outreach services?

Yes, the private security guards are trained in de-escalation and are working closely with other behavioral, mental health and homeless service providers to connect individuals to these services.

For additional questions and information, contact Darby Cowles, Senior Planner at dkcowles@cob.org or (360) 778-8389