



Community and Economic Development

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Decatur Downtown Development Authority

FROM: Angela Threadgill, Executive Director, Decatur Development Authorities

DATE: September 6, 2023

RE: Extension of the Downtown Square Security Pilot Program

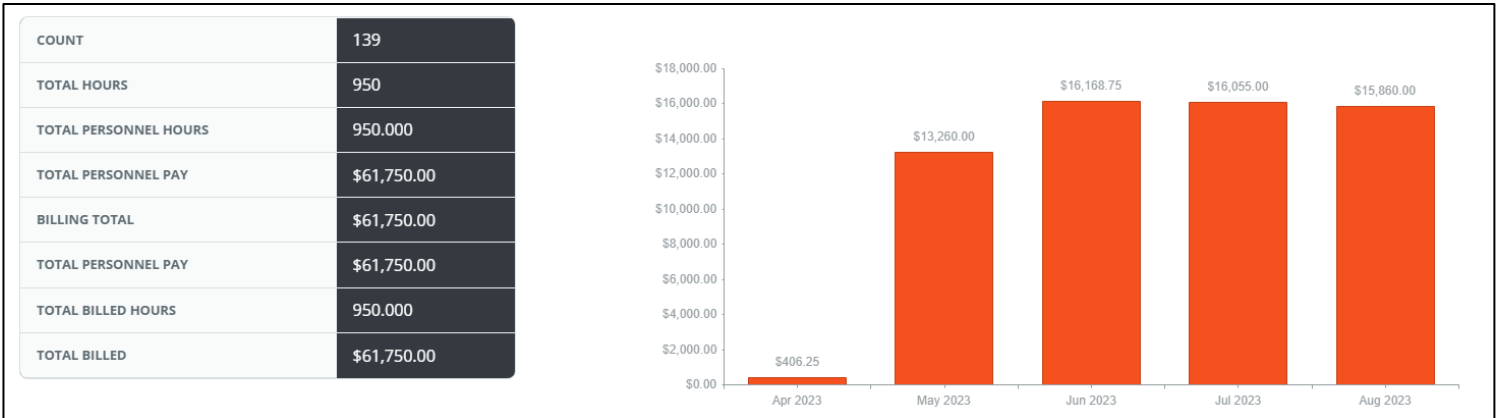
The purpose of this memo is to present a recommendation of approval of a resolution in support of renewing and extending the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Decatur Downtown Development Authority (DDDA) and the City of Decatur establishing supplemental security and law enforcement services within the downtown business district. The resolution would also approve the allocation of additional funds, up to \$75,400, for the pilot program and authorize its Chair and Executive Director to execute said amended MOU and associated independent contractor agreements.

The management and operations that took place during the initial four (4) month pilot Square Security Program would be extended through December 31, 2023. The DDDA would continue to contract with off-duty POST-certified police officers to patrol the downtown square, check-in with business owners, and respond to security issues during peak hours at the rate of \$65 per hour. The Decatur Police Department would continue to support the Program by coordinating a special unit of two (2) POST-certified officers that will patrol the downtown square on Thursdays/Fridays from 5:30 p.m. to midnight and Saturdays/Sundays from 4:00 p.m. to midnight. This program would continue to be staffed by police officers from various law enforcement agencies, including the Decatur PD. On behalf of the DDDA, Decatur PD personnel would continue to coordinate the staffing of the shifts and orient outside agency personnel to the City of Decatur and the Police Department's standards.

The primary patrol area is the Decatur Square, East and West Ponce de Leon Avenue from N. Candler Street to Commerce Drive, Church Street from East Ponce de Leon Avenue to E. Trinity Place, Clairemont Avenue from East Ponce de Leon Avenue to Commerce Drive, and other areas as identified during the pilot.

Attached hereto is a summary review of the initial pilot program provided by the Decatur Police Department.

DECATUR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
SQUARE SECURITY DETAIL
OVERVIEW
APRIL 2023 – AUGUST 2023



Total number of days when officers were present:

56 days. The detail consisted of 56 days that were covered by the officers.

Total number of hours when officers were present:

950 hours. There were a total of 950 billing hours recorded.

Which agencies' officers participated in the program?:

Decatur Police – 12 Outside Agency – 6

The outside agencies consisted of 5 DeKalb County District Attorney Investigators and 1 DeKalb County Marshal.

Total number of responses to incidents during hours of the program:

Details Pending from Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Search.

Officer presence and proactive responses assisted with business district alarms, customer disputes, mental health calls, suspicious activity, and dealing with the unhoused.

Types of incidents listed by frequency (by % of responses):

Details Pending from CAD Search.

Officers responded and assisted the patrol teams with incidents in the immediate area, which include but were not limited to: DUI arrests, traffic accident investigations entered auto, missing persons, disorderly juveniles, suicide call and locating a sexual battery suspect.

Miscellaneous:

The Square Security Detail overlapped several special events on The Square.

Data that would show decreases (or increases?) in activities as a result of officer presence:

No data available, however, there was a decrease in aggressive panhandling and urban camping. There were days when the Buskers permits were enforced.

SQUARE SECURITY PILOT PROGRAM (INITIAL SUMMARY/REVIEW)

- Each day of the program has been covered. (Plus/Minus a few hours due to officers shift work)
- All invoices are emailed to Tammy Washington and paid in a timely manner.
- The invoices provide the name of the officer and number of hours worked.
- There are no complaints from the officers.
- Officers are responsive with reporting split shifts and reduced hours for accurate billing.
- Although the first month consisted of combination outside agency Special Event Officers – the goal is to have Decatur Officers as the primary person on the detail.
- A weekly roster is sent to the Chief each Thursday for the weekend assignments.
- There has been several events/activities on the Square that benefited from the officers on the Square.
- We are still working on proper reporting of activity in the police computer system.
- There were no major incidents or significant crime reporting.
- Officer orientations have been conducted via Zoom
- More Decatur Officers are showing an interest in working the program.
- There has been an increase of on-duty Decatur Officers on the Square meeting and walking with the detail officers.
- An email group has been developed for the detail officers and issues are shared as soon as reasonably possible.