

City of Asheville Downtown Safety Initiative - May/June 2023

Safety Assessment Walk Info Sheet

What is a safety assessment walk?

- A safety assessment walk is an opportunity for city leaders and business/community members to review and discuss conditions in areas of downtown that may be contributing to an environment that feels unsafe. It's one way for City government and community partners to work together to address the complex factors contributing to a rise of crime.
- Attendees from City government will include staff from multiple departments (public works, transportation, city manager's office, etc.) along with Community Responders from the Fire Department and Asheville Police Department representatives. City Council members will also be invited to attend.
- The anticipated timeframe of a safety assessment walk is 1 - 2 hours.

What are the objectives of the safety assessment walk?

- To identify and discuss public safety concerns (what is unsafe/feels unsafe?) specifically understanding the perspective of businesses and other downtown stakeholders.
- To work together to identify short and long-term strategies/solutions i.e. during the 60 days or on a longer timeline. This includes steps that the city can take as well as businesses and other downtown stakeholders.

What should business attendees/downtown stakeholders be prepared to discuss?

- Do businesses have security cameras and are they willing to be linked to the County's FUSUS system?
- Will the business explore improved lighting?
- Type of cleaning the business is currently doing along their frontage.
- Does the business have a trespass letter on file?
- Has the business had a CPTED survey conducted?
- Any additional areas of public safety concern.

How do I schedule a safety assessment walk?

- Email avldowntownsafetyinitiative@publicinput.com and include the following:
 - What area would you like to cover in a safety assessment walk? (Include streets, particular locations, etc.)
 - Who will be included from the downtown community in the walk?
 - What particular issues of greatest concern do you anticipate discussing?
 - What is your preferred timeframe for the walk (day of the week, time of day, etc.)