

Short North Area Safety, Inclusion, and Quality of Life Initiatives and Policies

City of Columbus announces \$19 million in summer safety initiatives

As summer gets underway, the City of Columbus is redoubling efforts to keep every neighborhood safe. The city authorized \$19 million in anti-violence programs, safety equipment and youth engagement programs.

Recently announced initiatives and investments include:

- \$2.8 million in safety grants announced June 6 for funding for youth programming geared toward summer employment, safety education, violence intervention, and enabling identification on Police uniforms. This includes \$500,000 in funding that services the Short North and Downtown.
- [An agreement](#) with the Fraternal Order of Police additional overtime for police officers, allowing 40 additional officers in high-visibility areas to assist regularly scheduled patrol.
- \$16.2 million in city support for [summer programming for Columbus youth](#). From education and violence prevention to career exploration, jobs training and more, all the programs receiving funding are designed to provide safe, constructive and engaging outlets for youth to learn and thrive throughout the summer.
- [“Operation Wheels Down,”](#) a crackdown on illegal and reckless driving by ATVs, dirt bikes and motorcycles, resulted in 11 arrests or summons, nine vehicles impounded, and two traffic citations.
- Enhanced licensing enforcement of late-night food carts, which resulted in eight warnings, four shut-downs and two citations.
- Creation of [‘no-ride’ zones](#) for shared, electric scooters in Goodale, Franklin and Schiller parks, plus governed speed controls in additional shared areas of the city.
- Funding for lights in 22 city parks and cameras on city streets including High St.

The Mayor’s Office, Columbus City Council and the City Attorney’s office are also partnering to evaluate a revision to the city’s Noise Ordinance, to create the city’s first noise controls for commercial buildings. City Council will host community hearings before its July break to capture community feedback.

The city is also pursuing creation of dedicated ride-sharing drop zones that would help prevent traffic buildups and risky pedestrian behavior in dense traffic areas.

Short North Alliance Offering New Programs on Safety and Inclusion:

The Short North Alliance is partnering with the business community and the City to keep the Short North Arts District and surrounding residential areas safe and inclusive through these Short North Alliance led programs:

- Launching the Short North Good Neighbor Pledge Program to support the quality of life for all who live, work and play in the Short North Arts District. The program recognizes businesses that commit to being a good neighbor by adhering to operating standards as defined in the pledge; provides a channel where questions and concerns regarding a business's operating standards can be reviewed and addressed; and supports ongoing safety and Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (I.D.E.A.) efforts in the Short North Arts District. The Short North Good Neighbor Pledge Program’s operating standards include defined expectations around a business’s I.D.E.A. efforts; contributions to the art and culture, and community of the Short North Arts District; safety; cleanliness; noise and general business operations. An initial list of nearly 100 businesses have joined the Program. The full list of participating businesses can be found at shortnorth.org/communitywellbeing. Community members with questions or concerns regarding local business operations can submit details via shortnorth.org/communitywellbeing or emailing info@shortnorth.org.

- Offering new business and employee training workshops led in partnership with the YWCA Columbus for Short North Arts District employees focused on inclusion, diversity, equity, access, and de-escalation to foster inclusive safety for all.
- Offering a new pilot program that will make trained social service outreach workers available in key areas of the Short North to provide support services to individuals experiencing housing instability, mental health crisis or addiction.
- Continuing the Short North Crime Interdiction Program, which utilizes special duty officers scheduled at key times when violent crimes have been experienced to support violence prevention.

Community Guidance on Safety

To report a threat to human-life safety, please call Columbus Police at 614-645-4545 or 911.

To report other non-life threatening issues, please call 614-645-3111 or file a report online at <https://www.columbus.gov/311>.

For additional information and resources on to experience the Short North Arts District safety, visit shortnorth.org/communitywellbeing or email info@shortnorth.org to report a concern.