



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Anthony Mata

SUBJECT: DOWNTOWN FOOT PATROLS

DATE: June 1, 2021

Approved

Date: 6/3/2021

BACKGROUND

In the City Council-approved Mayor's March Budget Message for Fiscal Year 2021-2022¹, the City Manager was directed to continue one-time funding for a walking patrol in Downtown for \$250,000, and to return to Council with a Manager's Budget Addendum that outlines a potential timeline and budget options for adding this beat as a routinely-assigned, walking patrol in Downtown.

The Downtown foot patrol is staffed on overtime with one sergeant and two officers working Monday through Friday in five-hour increments: 10:00am to 3:00pm on Mondays and Tuesdays, and 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Wednesday through Friday. The working hours are based on the business owners' requests to have a visible presence downtown during normal business hours. The officers have direct interaction with the businesses and residents, and regularly interact with unhoused community providing them resources and gathering information regarding criminal activity.

ANALYSIS

A permanent walking beat in the Downtown would consist of four full-time officers and one full-time sergeant for each side of the week, for a total of eight officers and two sergeants. Based on the feedback from businesses and residents, the most effective hours would be from 10:00am until 8:00pm. A similar staffing model would be needed to continue foot patrols throughout the City in other high needs areas. This would include a minimum of eight full time officers and two full time sergeants for each side of the week (sixteen officers, four sergeants).

Without an increase to staffing levels, the establishment of a permanent walking beat would require a reallocation of existing staff from other duties. Since the Department is not currently able to meet existing response time targets for both Priority 1 (life threatening) and Priority 2 (crime in progress or

¹ Link to memo: <http://sanjose.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?M=F&ID=8e777a76-af9e-4b4a-aa91-5a5733f6957b.pdf>

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just occurred) calls for service² – 2020-2021 Estimate of 54% for Priority 1 (responding within 6 minutes) and 43% for Priority 2 (responding within 11 minutes) versus a target of 70% – the establishment of permanent walking beats is not recommended without adding additional sworn personnel. The Police Department redistricting process is currently underway (and expected to be a multi-year process), and it will specifically evaluate the need and potential to add foot patrols with additional staff, given existing workloads. Further, the redistricting process may also recommend that any new sworn positions be prioritized for responding to calls for service to help improve the chronically low response times.

If additional ongoing funding were available and prioritized for permanent Downtown foot patrols, full-time positions could be deployed beginning April 2022, with the assumption that the Department would include the new positions in the October 2021 Academy. While the newly graduated recruits would not be assigned to the Downtown foot patrol, the additional positions provide the capacity for more experienced officers to be placed in the foot patrol without reducing the Department’s ability to respond to calls for service. The cost summary for this staffing model is summarized below.

Downtown Foot Patrol Walking Beat Staffing Cost Summary

	FTE	Ongoing Costs
Personal Services	10.0	\$2,645,992
Non-Personal/Equipment		\$57,663*
Total	10.0	\$2,703,655

*An additional \$250,000 of one-time costs would be needed for new vehicles and equipment.

It is important to note that overtime funding for foot patrol in other high needs areas throughout the City has also been allocated in previous years, and again in the Mayor’s March Budget Message. Creating the capacity to implement foot patrols in high needs areas outside of downtown would require another 20 positions for an additional cost of \$5.5 million.

COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the City Manager’s Budget Office.

/s/
ANTHONY MATA
Chief of Police

For questions, please contact Assistant Chief Paul Joseph at (408) 277-4212.

² Public Safety City Service Area Dashboard (Page VII-49):

<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/72305/637556951002530000>