



**MEETING MINUTES
SESSION OF THE COMMISSION WORKSHOP
DOWNTOWN NIGHT LIFE SAFETY AND SECURITY
CITY OF KISSIMMEE
CITY HALL, COMMISSION CHAMBERS
101 CHURCH STREET, KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA 34741-5054
TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023 AT 3:30 PM**

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Members Present: Mayor Olga Gonzalez, Commissioners Olga Castano, Angela Eady (arrived 3:32 p.m.), Carlos Alvarez, III, Janette Martinez

Staff Present: City Manager Mike Steigerwald, City Attorney Olga Sanchez de Fuentes, Deputy City Manager Desiree Matthews, Assistant City Manager Austin Blake, Deputy City Clerk Tameara Crespo

Mayor Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

2. OVERVIEW OF DOWNTOWN SAFETY CONCERNS

City Manager Steigerwald opened the meeting by reviewing the intent of the workshop was to bring the community together to discuss recommendations and address potential issues regarding downtown safety concerns. He introduced Police Chief Betty Holland to provide the Commission with an update on the downtown crime statistics.

3. PRESENTATION BY KISSIMMEE POLICE DEPARTMENT ON RESPONSE ACTIVITY

Police Chief Holland provided an overview of the Kissimmee Police Department Response Activity via a PowerPoint Presentation (Exhibit "A"). The Chief's presentation focused on the general downtown area geographically encompassing Stewart Avenue to Neptune Road and Church Street to Pleasant Street. She reviewed the five-year statistics and detailed each category to include the following: violent responses, aggravated assault/battery calls, requests for service, officer-initiated responses, report overview, and weapons crimes. The year 2021 was not included in the study due to covid and many businesses were closed during that time.

Chief Holland informed the Commission that currently, there are 4-7 officers on shift patrolling downtown between 12 a.m. and 3 a.m. The City recently transitioned to a new reporting system and the newest data will not be available for the next few years. Some downtown businesses have come together and hired an off-duty officer to patrol, providing additional security. Chief Holland opened the floor to answer any questions or comments from the Commission.

4. DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE ACTION PLAN BY COMMISSIONERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The City Commission, City Manager, and Police Chief engaged in an open discussion regarding the Florida Statutes prohibition of weapons on a property where alcohol sales are taking place or alcohol is being "consumed". Clarification was sought on the definitions and interpretation of the Florida Statute. Further discussion commenced regarding key topics such as: outdoor dining and special permits, potential roll back of closing times for businesses, late night crowds and music, speeding / drag racing in the downtown district, signage regulations

as a deterrent for weapons, illegal usage of sidewalks and street closures, a recent Kissimmee Main Street survey to solicit community feedback, historical trends of crime reporting, opportunities to reroute traffic during late evening hours from Broadway to MLK Blvd, and additional downtown security. Mr. Parsons reported to the Commission he is spending \$50 per hour, two nights a week to secure a special security detail for the businesses on Dakin Avenue and it has yielded positive results.

Members of the public were encouraged to approach the Commission with comments or concerns. The following citizens and business members spoke and provided feedback to the Commission and staff:

- Ray Parsons, 111 E. Monument Avenue
- Tom Kapp, 21 N Clyde Avenue
- Jonathan Ruiz, 725 Mabbette Street
- Lance Spencer, 535 Brack Street
- Edgardo Ramos, 624 Lakeshore Blvd
- Cecilia Jacquez, 111 E. Monument Avenue
- John Suidut, 14 E. Dakin Avenue

Many residents felt that one isolated incident does not define the community as a whole and we should not overreact. Consensus was received by the community in general, that the City should be proactive in securing the future safety of downtown as the City continues to grow.

The City Manager clarified for the Commission that originally the concerns regarding downtown were brought to light due to noise complaints by residents living in proximity, such as loud music and late-night events by local restaurants and bars. Since then, the City has adopted a new noise ordinance that both Code Enforcement and the Police Department jointly enforce which includes a progressive enforcement strategy and stricter fines for repeat offenders. Recommendation was made to consider a nighttime code enforcement officer. In reference to enforcing the noise ordinances as it relates to loud vehicles, City Attorney Olga Sanchez de Fuentes noted that we are pre-empted by State law from enforcing noise complaints on vehicles that are "passing through".

The Commission discussed possibilities to lessen the costs of extra security for the downtown business owners such as using CRA funds to absorb the expense. The Commission and City Manager discussed the differences between a hired security officer and police officers on foot patrol and the benefits and impacts of each, including their duties.

The key takeaways for future discussion and for staff to bring back to the City Commission is as follows:

- Finding additional resources to increase police presence
- Develop suggestions to reduce the financial burden on business owners who are incurring costs for additional security services
- Possible signage for all downtown businesses
- Provide and review the results of the Kissimmee Main Street community survey

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mayor Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 4:42 PM.



ATTEST:

Tameara Crespo for
CITY CLERK

Olga Gonzalez
MAYOR-COMMISSIONER

Exhibit "A"
PowerPoint Presentation
Police Crime Statistics Downtown
Police Chief Betty Holland



DOWNTOWN NIGHTLIFE PUBLIC SAFETY WORKSHOP

AUGUST 1, 2023 • 3:30PM

DOWNTOWN FOCUS AREA

AREA DEFINED FOR ALL STATISTICS USED



DOWNTOWN NIGHTLIFE PUBLIC SAFETY WORKSHOP

08/01/2023



AGGRAVATED ASSAULT/BATTERY

06/21/2023 • 9:15PM • TWO BROTHER STEAKHOUSE • 16 E. DAKIN AVENUE

The business owner asked an intoxicated male causing a commotion to leave. The suspect pulled a handgun, pointed it at the owner, and threatened to kill him. The suspect in this case could not be identified.

06/04/2023 • 9:50PM • BREEZE • 7 E. DAKIN AVENUE

An intoxicated individual caused a disturbance and pulled a handgun from his waistband. As he did so, he was punched, fell, and turned around and shot the victim once, causing non-life-threatening injuries. The suspect in this case was arrested.

03/16/2023 • 9:10PM • TWO BROTHER STEAKHOUSE • 16 E. DAKIN AVENUE

A patron brandished a handgun after verbally arguing with the business owner when asked to leave. The suspect in this case was arrested.

SHOTS FIRED

02/05/2023 • 2:00AM • EVERLASTING SKIN CARE SPA • 211 BROADWAY

Officers found five spent casings and two live rounds. No injuries or victims were reported, and the shooting was part of an altercation between two males that have not been identified.

03/20/2023 • 2:40AM • 222 CHURCH STREET

Officers found eight spent casings and one live round. No injuries or victims were reported, and the circumstances around this shooting are unknown.



DOWNTOWN NIGHTLIFE PUBLIC SAFETY WORKSHOP

08/01/2023

FIVE YEARS OF DOWNTOWN STATISTICS

REQUEST FOR SERVICE

An activity where a business owner, resident, or visitor requested assistance. These requests are received by the individual calling for assistance via 911 or the non-emergency phone number.

OFFICER INITIATED

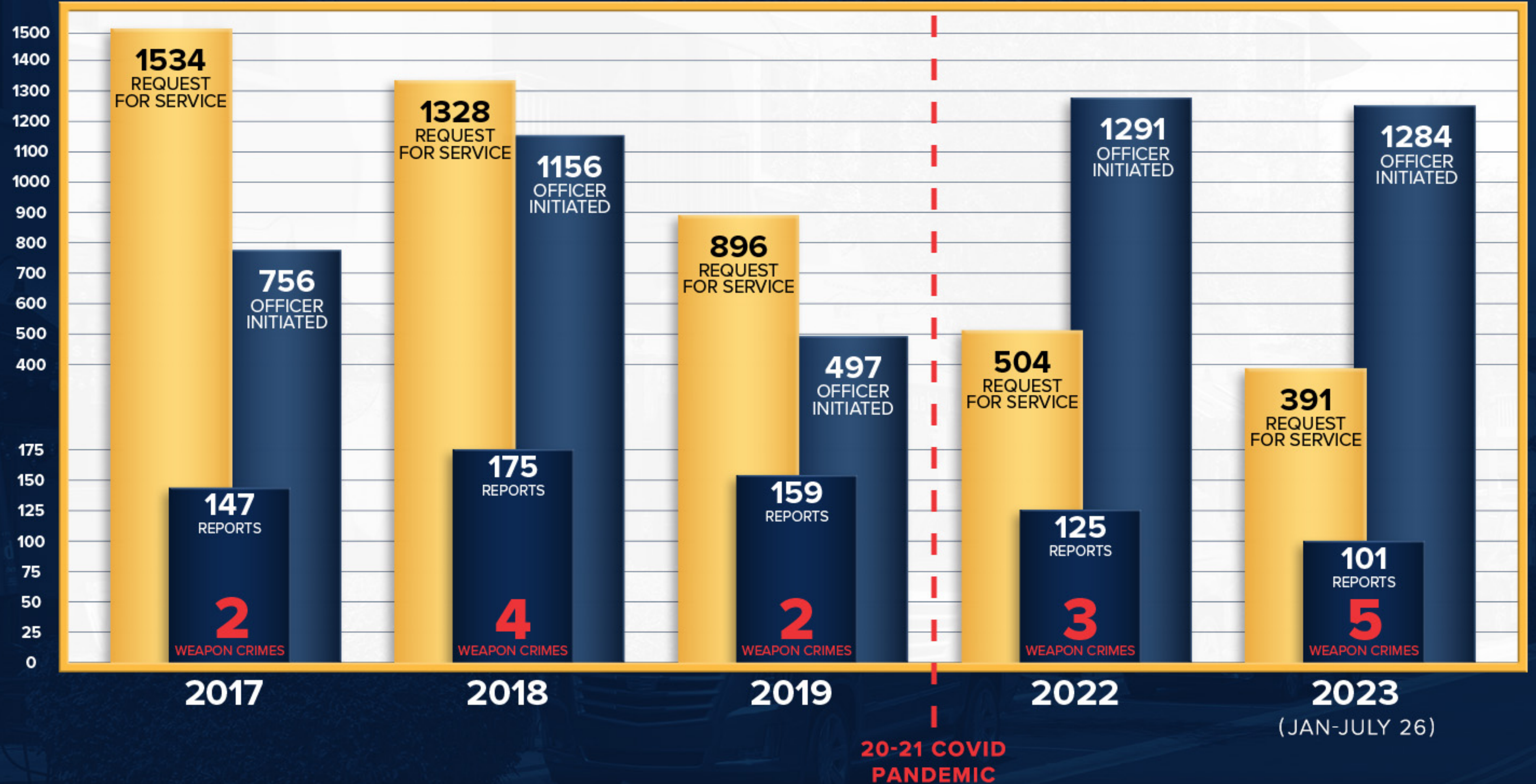
An activity where an officer engaged in an activity without someone calling for assistance. It may also include an activity where an officer was flagged down by someone needing assistance while the officer was patrolling the area.

REPORTS

A document authored by an officer when they respond to a request for service, when they initiate the activity or when they are flagged down by someone needing assistance while the officer was patrolling the area.

WEAPON CRIMES

The number of calls for service where a weapon was documented as being involved.



DOWNTOWN NIGHTLIFE PUBLIC SAFETY WORKSHOP

08/01/2023

RESOURCE ALLOCATION

DOWNTOWN NIGHT SHIFT STAFFING

**THE KISSIMMEE POLICE DEPARTMENT
ALLOCATES OFFICERS FROM
DIFFERENT UNITS TO ACTIVELY
PATROL THE DOWNTOWN AREA.**

**CURRENTLY, AN AVERAGE OF
FOUR TO SEVEN OFFICERS PATROL
THE DOWNTOWN AREA BETWEEN
12AM - 3AM.**



DOWNTOWN NIGHTLIFE PUBLIC SAFETY WORKSHOP

08/01/2023



[KISSIMMEE.GOV/POLICE](https://kissimmee.gov/police)



@KISSIMMEEPOLICE