OPERATIONS DIVISION
ROANOKE POLICE DEPARTMENT
DEPUTY CHIEF A.S. PUCKETT

Memorandum

Date: September 20, 2024

To: Chief Booth

From: Deputy Chief Puckett

Subject: Downtown Safety and Visibility Enhancement Plan

The following plan was developed in response to growing concerns from our downtown residents and business owners regarding safety and public order. By increasing law enforcement presence, enhancing engagement with local stakeholders, and implementing strategic measures, we aim to address violations, improve visibility, and provide a secure and welcoming environment for all.

Downtown Plan

- Starting next pay period, Officer Ruiz and Officer Morical will be assigned to the downtown unit during daylight hours. Daytime coverage of the downtown beat will no longer be handled by regular patrol.
- Two detectives will dedicate at least one hour per day to the downtown service district, documenting their interactions with business owners and addressing any observed violations.
- The Services Division will also allocate time during their shifts to engage with businesses in the downtown area.
- Overtime for bike patrol in the downtown business district has been approved, and requests have been sent out to secure officer participation.
- During peak night hours (1:30 AM - 3:00 AM), the Zone 1 Sergeant, along with four officers (one from each zone), will monitor crowds and maintain order during closing time.
- The Violent Suppression Team will be deployed every other weekend to assist with managing disorderly crowds and ensuring public safety.
- We will work on adding police parking on Market Street to increase officer visibility, and police vehicles will regularly be parked in the existing dedicated police parking areas to maintain a constant presence.

Summary

The primary intent of this plan is to address violations, maintain high visibility in the downtown area, and provide a safe environment for both the community and business owners. By increasing law enforcement presence, creating additional police parking, and engaging with local stakeholders, we aim to enhance security and promote a welcoming atmosphere for all.