Safety Matters

In addition to COVID health and safety protocols, we’re working in collaboration with the City, the Philadelphia Police Department, Ready.Set.Philly! and other organizations to help everyone feel comfortable returning to the region’s economic business hub. To help ease the transition back into your new normal, you can check out these Return to Philly Toolkits, and hear from others who have already returned to their offices by visiting these Employee Spotlight Videos. Below are the coordinated plans to visibly increase public safety on your way into the office, on your way home and during the lunch hour.

SEPTA

• More than 200 uniformed and plain clothes officers are deployed throughout the system along with additional security guards as part of COVID safety measures
  o 28,000 cameras are on the system and emergency call buttons are on every train

• SEPTA’s Transit Watch App allows anyone to quickly and discreetly report any suspicious activity or incident

• Co-responder programs linking social services and outreach specialists with police officers connect those in need to substance use treatment, behavioral health services and other assistance

• Coordinating patrols with the Philadelphia Police Department and private police from area hospital systems and universities maximizes coverage at key areas including:
  o 3rd and Market
  o 15th and Market
  o Suburban and Jefferson Stations

• Over the next days and weeks, SEPTA will be:
  o Developing a campaign to heavily publicize the SEPTA Transit Watch app
  o Expanding the security guard presence to cover trains as well as stations
  o Increasing the number of social service specialists working on SEPTA from seven to more than 50
  o Equipping social service specialists with police radios to enable direct communication with Transit Police
  o Issuing every one of its 282 custodians a SEPTA cell phone to enable direct communication with the Transit Police dispatch
  o Creating a Virtual Patrol Center
  o Continuing efforts to hire more police officers
  o Initiating a high school internship program to encourage city residents to join the Transit Police
  o Using its YouTube Channel to seek the public’s help in identifying unknown suspects
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Philadelphia Police Department

- Existing police resources already allocated to Center City police are deployed in high-traffic commuter and transit areas during peak travel times.

- The Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) is coordinating with public and private partners to create a visible security presence for residents and commuters coming back to the office at critical times and in critical locations, as determined from the local businesses.

- PPD will enhance and support existing efforts with:
  - SEPTA
  - Delaware River Port Authority
  - Philadelphia Sheriff’s Office
  - University City District Police
  - Drexel University Police
  - University of Pennsylvania Police
  - Jefferson Health Security
  - Independence Blue Cross
  - Comcast
  - Allied Universal
  - Center City District

- The strategic safety employment strategies will also be activated and patrolled by PPD officers from the 6th, 9th and Center City precincts and within the private partners’ respective areas of jurisdiction, covering locations including:
  - 8th to 20th Streets
  - Locust Street to JFK Boulevard
  - Old City

- The highly visible law enforcement/private security presence within Center City will include:
  - Marked Police Vehicles from PPD, SEPTA, Delaware River Port Authority and the Philadelphia Sheriff’s Office positioned at various locations including at Suburban Station, PATCO, and Broad Street line transportation hubs
  - Use of PPD Motorcycles and Mounted Patrol
  - Use of police foot beats, bicycles, and coordination with private security
  - Twenty civilian security bikes, funded by Center City District, have been added within the existing bike deployment and will be assigned micro-grids to ensure complete coverage

*It is important to note that these efforts do not redepoly resources from other areas, but rework existing resources already allocated to Center City*
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Center City District

- Forty uniformed Community Service Representatives are on foot every day from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm and increased bike patrol coverage spans 7th to 20th Streets between JFK Boulevard and Arch Streets to Locust, Chestnut and Pine Streets

- Center City District’s Ambassadors of Hope program partners with Project HOME and the PPD, with assistance from the City’s Department of Behavioral Health and Office of Homeless Services. The program consists of two teams, each comprised of a Project HOME outreach worker, a specially trained CCD Community Service Representative, and a crisis intervention trained police officer, covering the entire footprint of the District, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm.

University City District

- Forty-five Public Safety Ambassadors monitor corridors from Market Street to Woodland Avenue and Schuylkill Avenue to 50th Street with increased daytime hours for workday visibility between 10:00 am and 3:00 am, seven days a week from Market Street to Woodland Avenue and Schuylkill Avenue to 50th Street

- A dedicated Public Safety Ambassador is posted outside 30th Street Station from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm, five days a week

- Walking escort service available between 10:00 am and 3:00 am, seven days a week

- Dedicated Outreach Ambassadors are deployed from 5:00 am to 1:00 pm (with a focus on the morning rush) to engage individuals experiencing homelessness

- Another dedicated outreach ambassador between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the 40th Street El station

- A Market Street Corridor Ambassador makes frequent checks at the 34th and 46th Street El stations

- Daily patrols are conducted from 8:00 am to 12:00 am between the 40th Street El station and the 40th Street Trolley Portal