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DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS, INC. ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF SAFER DOWNTOWN

*Initiative includes the opening of a new security command center
and a network of partner organizations prioritizing safety in Downtown Columbus*

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Downtown Columbus, Inc. (DCI) today announced the launch of Safer Downtown, a public-private partnership that integrates tried-and-true safety methods with new, technology-enabled approaches. A focus on Downtown safety is among the initiatives called for by the community in the Downtown Columbus Strategic Plan.

Safer Downtown focuses on enhancing security technology and cameras throughout Downtown, sharing information across Columbus Police and Downtown security personnel to guide safety processes and improvements, and ensuring proper lighting and visibility are factored into environmental design.

“Downtown is everyone’s neighborhood, and everyone has a role to play in keeping it safe and welcoming,” said Columbus Mayor Andrew J. Ginther. “I’m grateful to DCI for forging collaborative partnerships with the Columbus Division of Police and the private sector to develop an even more coordinated approach to keeping people and property safe.”

A key component of the Safer Downtown initiative is the newly opened Safer Downtown Command Center. Funded by a grant from the State of Ohio and located in the Lazarus Building, the space houses screens displaying security camera feeds, radio and phone lines monitored 24/7 by private security personnel.

“The safety of people in Downtown Columbus is important not only for those who work here – including state employees – but also for anyone who lives here and enjoys all our capital city has to offer,” said Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. “Our administration in partnership and collaboration with the Ohio General Assembly is part of the work of the Safer Downtown project through one-time strategic funding in our state’s capital budget.”

The Safer Downtown Command Center complements the work of the Columbus Division of Police and DCI by providing additional security resources Downtown and fostering collaboration between private security forces and police. Command Center personnel have a direct line of communication with Columbus Police, who also have access to the space.

“Downtown is one of the safest patrol zones in the city, but we can always do more to collaboratively prevent and address crime and reassure residents, business owners and visitors of their safety,” said Police Chief Elaine Bryant. “This operation is a force multiplier that will expand our resources and reach, day and night.”

"The vitality of Downtown Columbus as a business hub depends on people feeling safe when they come to work each day," said Huntington CEO Steve Steinour. "As a Safer Downtown partner, we applaud its proactive, innovative approach. When our urban core thrives, it creates a ripple effect of economic growth and cultural vibrancy that benefits the entire Columbus Region."

Safer Downtown partners include the City of Columbus Department of Public Safety, City of Columbus Division of Police, Columbus Mayor Andrew J. Ginther's Office, City Attorney's Office, Columbus Metropolitan Library, Columbus State Community College, Downtown Columbus, Inc., Edwards Companies, Experience Columbus, Franklin County, Greater Columbus Convention Center, Huntington, Nationwide, Nationwide Realty Investors, Special Improvement Districts and State of Ohio.

Learn more about Safer Downtown at downtowncolumbus.com/saferdowntown.

Images of the Safer Downtown Command Center approved for publication by media outlets are available [here](#). Credit Infinite Impact Photography.

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About Downtown Columbus, Inc.

About Downtown Columbus, Inc. Downtown Columbus, Inc. is a private nonprofit organization whose mission is to lead city-changing projects and collaborations that improve the connectivity, livability, and inclusivity of the Downtown Columbus experience. Downtown Columbus, Inc. drives development and progress of the Downtown Columbus Strategic Plan, working across sectors toward the vision for Downtown Columbus to become a neighborhood of connected, people-first urban districts that can be enjoyed by all. Learn more at downtowncolumbus.com.