A Comprehensive and Layered Approach to Safety

The University’s Police Department (UMPD) and Department of Public Safety have the full support of University leaders. The University has many resources in place that keep on-campus crime at levels far lower on average compared to crime rates across Minneapolis. However, ensuring safety in the Minneapolis neighborhoods near campus requires close partnership with the Minneapolis Police Department, which has the responsibility to protect and serve City of Minneapolis residents—including University students.

The University is taking a comprehensive and layered approach to safety that includes many new and recent investments—including in Dinkytown. But it cannot address crime in off-campus Minneapolis neighborhoods alone. So we will continue working closely with the City of Minneapolis, other local agencies, landlords and businesses, and students and parents to advocate for proper resources that promote community safety.

Here are our most recent updates:

- **Safety Guides in Dinkytown**—We have heard positive feedback about the Guides, who provide walking escort services, help visitors find their way, and connect with businesses and property owners. Others have asked to expand the Guides’ duties to include trash pick-up and graffiti removal and to extend program hours. We are currently negotiating a new contract, which will begin this fall.
- **Infrastructure solutions**—Work with Minneapolis Public Works to better control traffic and limit vehicles around Dinkytown, potentially including barricades and street blockades.
- **Revitalization of Dinkytown**—More people means increased safety. Among options being considered are parklets (seasonal public spaces that make cities more livable and walkable), other public spaces that promote safe gatherings, and temporary street closures for events.
- **Business engagement**—The Dinkytown Business Alliance recently received a grant to address safety concerns. The Blueprint Approved Institute grant from the Minneapolis Health Department Office of Violence Prevention focuses on community-driven violence prevention, including training, pilot projects, hands-on technical support, and establishing a peer network. The effort’s long-term vision is to reduce violence and decrease racial and economic disparities.
- **Business-University partnerships**—The University District Alliance is concluding a year-long feasibility study to form a Business Improvement District in Dinkytown that aims to decrease crime and enhance the engagement of local businesses.
• **Cameras and lighting**—Continue to partner with Dinkytown neighborhoods and businesses to secure more cameras and lights.

• **On-campus investments and recruitment**—University leaders fully funded UMPD’s annual budget request, increased its authorized officer pool to 66 officers and are adding tools to address shortfalls in staffing from other agencies and safety challenges in neighborhoods. UMPD is also exploring ways to retain and recruit talented and qualified officers, among other approaches.

• **University Senate Safety Committee**—The University Senate Safety Committee advises and consults with the president, senior administrators, and the Vice President for University Services on policies and major decisions relating to campus and public safety at the University. This Committee includes faculty members, academic professionals, students, and civil service employees at the University.

• **Seeking state investment**—Requested $100 million in public safety investments from the State Legislature in 2022. The request aimed to decrease pressure on UMPD officers, free up resources to respond to the highest-priority needs, and support University safety initiatives. Unfortunately, state policymakers did not allocate the funding during the 2022 session.

• **Seeking city investment**—Requested $2.3 million from the City of Minneapolis to add high-level pedestrian lighting in Dinkytown. We will continue to work with the mayor and Minneapolis Public Works to secure this proven crime deterrent.

More info about safety resources and investments: [https://safe-campus.umn.edu/crime-threats-violence](https://safe-campus.umn.edu/crime-threats-violence)

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