



## **Building a Safety Alliance for Risk Management November 8, 2022**

### **DISCUSSION TOPICS**

- What agencies collaborate on nighttime management?
- Is the alliance oriented to training, compliance, or enforcement?
- What data is collected and shared?
- How does the alliance interact with social venues?
- What support does the alliance provide to new businesses?
- Does the alliance promote improvements in policy and resource allocation?
- Which agency organizes and facilitates the alliance?

### **SUMMARY**

Police are typically the catch-all for public safety challenges in nightlife settings. But other city, county, and state agencies also play a critical role in nighttime safety. The forum included several case study highlights on how an inter-agency alliance can facilitate collaboration among code compliance, alcohol enforcement, fire, and health departments. Benefits included data sharing, compliance training for businesses, and educational support prior to enforcement.

### **IMPETUS AND MOTIVATIONS FOR CREATING A PUBLIC SAFETY ALLIANCE**

There are two primary reasons for creating a Public Safety Alliance. First, the exceptional burden on police while they face serious staffing shortages to effectively monitor and intervene in busy nightlife districts. Second, the response to COVID required rapid response among state, county, and city authorities to modify regulations on outdoor seating, interior occupancy, hours, fire safety, and emergency response. This established a new approach that is carrying over to regular day-to-day operations.

### **PENNSYLVANIA**

Pennsylvania's "Nuisance Bar Task Force" is a pioneer in convening different departments to organize data about at-risk businesses and conduct early intervention or refuse license renewal. However, the term has a negative connotation, and can be offsetting for venues labeled as a "nuisance."

## **SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA**

Sacramento has entertainment permits that enable a dedicated team to focus on entertainment districts.

- There are six police officers, six code enforcement officers, and two fire inspectors that actively work in the entertainment district making positive contacts with venue operators and staff.
- The officers make personal contact with the venues, assist with training and use of PatronsCan (ID checking technology), and hold quarterly meetings with city officials.
- A formalized alliance is being created to work with the new Nighttime Economy Manager

## **CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

The early evolution of the public safety alliance model was driven by police departments. Chicago was among the first, with an “Entertainment Venue Team” that included police, fire, alcohol licensing and building code. Their approach was to monitor calls for service and other evidence-based data for early intervention. They also conducted periodically arranged visits to venues. Monthly meetings held with venue operators assist in the communication of recent issues and provide open communication for problem-solving.

The creation of the Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection elevated the process with all the key agencies and departments under one organizational umbrella.

## **RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

Raleigh has an expanded focus on the quality of life and mobility, including the use of higher wattage lighting, and the removal of tables and chairs after closing time to reduce loitering after hours

## **EDMONTON, ALBERTA**

Edmonton has built upon the work of other cities with a more advanced approach. Evolving from a study in 2006, several innovations from lessons learned include:

- A coordinator assists in breaking down “silos” and sustains engagement over time
- Weekly meetings to monitor progress and determine priorities. This provides an opportunity to monitor information over time and evaluate what works and what requires improvement.
- Expanded beyond the police to include fire, code/by-law enforcement, alcohol regulation, health
- Formalize training of “Hospitality Officers” working at night
- Edmonton’s goal is education before compliance, with a focus on prevention-oriented programs. In-person meetings with the venues occur when enforcement is needed.