

## **Eugene "Gino Rock" Brantley's Plan for Downtown Safety**

### **Ensuring Safety Through Collaboration and Proactive Measures**

**Meeting with Business Owners Upon Request:** As your Sheriff, I commit to meeting with business owners upon request to address their concerns directly. I will also invite them to be part of our downtown crime reduction team, meeting quarterly to ensure continuous communication and collaboration.

**Accessible and Approachable Leadership:** I pledge to be an accessible and approachable leader, ensuring that business owners and residents feel comfortable voicing their concerns and suggestions.

**Increased Police Presence:** To address the rising property crimes and violent offenses downtown, we will ensure a strong and visible police presence. Uniformed officers will be stationed on every block during peak events, staggered across both sides of the street. This will deter criminal activity and provide a sense of security to all.

**Enhanced Alarm Response:** I understand the frustration with the recent changes to the alarm response policy. Under my leadership, we will promptly revise this policy to ensure that officers respond to all alarm calls, restoring confidence in our commitment to protect your properties.

**Collaboration with Other Agencies:** To maximize resources and maintain a robust police presence without overburdening local taxpayers, we will collaborate with various agencies such as Richmond County 911, Pardons & Parole, Georgia State Patrol, GA Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

**Advanced Incident Command System (ICS) Plans:** For major events such as First Friday, Border Bash, concerts, and the 4th of July fireworks, we will implement comprehensive ICS plans. These plans will include detailed intelligence, potential problems, primary and backup plans, personnel assignments, and coordination with fire and EMS services.

**Invitation to Pre-Shift Meetings:** Business owners will be invited to attend our pre-shift meetings for major events. During these meetings, we will review the ICS plans, ensuring transparency and collaboration in our efforts to maintain safety. This will not only be for downtown but county-wide at major events, including events held at the civic center.

**Real-Time Communication via Text/App:** We will develop a texting system/app to provide real-time updates to downtown businesses when incidents occur. This system will enable businesses to react swiftly and take necessary precautions, enhancing collective security. Again, this will not only be for downtown business but county wide. For example, if a delivery driver is robbed, the information will quickly be sent via text

message to all business in our system that handle deliveries thus assisting in preventing an additional incident along with receiving possible information that would help us reach a quick resolution.

**Proactive Problem Solving:** Deputies will report various issues to our agency's "problem solver" unit, akin to a 311 system. This includes repeat offenders, homeless issues, non-functional streetlights, downed traffic signs, sidewalk hazards, and high litter areas. Addressing these problems promptly will improve overall safety and quality of life.

**Commitment to Safety and Community Engagement:** My goal is to ensure the safety of everyone without over-policing. We will review the pros and cons of each action plan and event, continuously improving our strategies. By working closely with business owners, we will create a secure and thriving downtown environment.

Together, we can make downtown Augusta a safer place for businesses and residents alike. If you have any concerns or would like to discuss these plans further, please do not hesitate to reach out. Your input is invaluable in our shared mission to enhance community safety.