



## Ramsey County Sheriff's Office **Crime Prevention Tips**

### Community Support and Crime Prevention Services

1411 Paul Kirkwold Drive • Arden Hills, Minnesota 55112

Phone: 651-266-7332 • Fax: 651-266-7337

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## Protecting your business during civil unrest

Businesses may face increased risks during periods of public protests and civil unrest. It's possible that employee safety could be threatened, operations disrupted, and property damaged. The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office is committed to protecting people and property during unrest—and we need your help.

Here are 12 actions you can take to mitigate the risk to your business.

### PLAN

- Make sure employees are familiar with your emergency and security plans
- Make sure employee contact information is up to date
- Install uniform interior and exterior lighting
- Install laminated glass or security film to windows and glass doors
- Install security cameras and train employees on how to use it
- Resource: [www.ready.gov/business](http://www.ready.gov/business) visit this site for more information

### PREPARE

- Follow mainstream and social media for news about anticipated disruptions
- Remain alert for unusual activity and consider removing and/or limiting inventory
- Be prepared to board up windows and doors if protests are planned for your area
- Remove loose items (garbage cans, landscape materials) from parking lots and around building
- Reserve employee parking near the building entrance

### PARTNER WITH THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- Stay connected with your Patrol Division
  - o Provide current contact information to the Sheriff's Office
  - o Records Unit / Front Desk – 651-266-7300
  - o Report crimes and suspicious activity – 9-1-1

Based on experience, the businesses that are most at-risk are neighborhood markets and those that sell alcohol, tobacco, cell phones or shoes; dispense prescription medication; and have ATMs. During times of unrest it might be a good idea to consider limiting inventory that makes your business a target.

During these times of political instability, social turmoil, and the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to not overreact. Peaceful protests and marches are lawful First Amendment activities whether scheduled or spontaneous, and the vast majority of protests are peaceful.