

5/31/2020

Storefront Security Best Practices

Last night, the civil unrest spreading nationwide in the wake of the death of George Floyd made its way to SoHo and other Manhattan neighborhoods near Union Square. Two stores on SoHo Broadway were broken into and had merchandise removed. This morning, Initiative staff logged physical damage in our district, which consisted mostly of cracked or broken glass on approximately 10 buildings. We've notified property owners of the building damage and observed repairs being made to most of these buildings today.

We understand property owners and retailers are having to make some very difficult decisions right now on how to best secure their buildings/premises. Based on our conversations with the NYPD, the Initiative is concerned with building security, safety of residents living here, and risks associated with fire.

The Initiative is making the following suggestions to protect your buildings/premises during any future civil unrest:

- Secure your premises/building:
 - Remove merchandise from storefront;
 - Install physical barriers on ground floor to prevent break-ins through storefronts or other ground-floor access points (points of entry/exit should continue to be operational);
 - Leave lights on overnight on the ground floor;
 - Check security systems, security cameras, security of entrances;
 - Hire overnight security;
 - Do not buzz strangers into building;
- Place garbage (residential or commercial) out in the morning for collection during the day and do not leave garbage on sidewalk overnight as it poses a potential fire risk;

During our time in the district today, we met and spoke with many property owners, residents and building security staff. Most were hoping for the best but are being prepared for further civil unrest. The Clean Team continues worked tirelessly today to clean up the mess from last night, move trash receptacles back into position, and be a positive force during these uncertain times. Initiative staff continue to be in frequent contact with our City agency partners at NYPD and DSNY.

As always, please be in touch with any concerns or specific conditions you'd like us to address.

I hope that each of you continue to be healthy and safe.

In partnership,
Mark Dicus
Executive Director