

# FIRST AMENDMENT DEMONSTRATION RESOURCE GUIDE FOR BUSINESSES

First Amendment activities have the potential to disrupt business operations. By preparing ahead of time, you can better protect your employees, guests, and property.

## HOW TO PREPARE

- Sign up to receive real-time alerts from the District on severe weather, public safety, traffic impacts, and more by visiting [alertdc.dc.gov](https://alertdc.dc.gov).
- ReadyDC has resources to help businesses create emergency plans, protect critical information, train and exercise employees, and improve the workforce's personal preparedness efforts. Visit [ready.dc.gov/business](https://ready.dc.gov/business) to get started.
- The DC Board of Elections created an interactive map of the 2020 vote centers and ballot boxes. [Click here to view the map](#) and get a better understanding of potential traffic in and around your business.
- The Business Emergency Management Operations Center (BEMOC) works with private sector partners to improve the District's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. The BEMOC provides members with real-time updates from District officials and guidance for making a business more resilient. Become a BEMOC member today, email [dc.bemoc@dc.gov](mailto:dc.bemoc@dc.gov).

## HOW TO PROTECT

- Report suspicious activity. If you see inaccurate polling/voting information or activity that doesn't feel right, report it via the iWatch platform managed by the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) at [iwatchdc.org](https://iwatchdc.org). If there is an emergency or you feel you are in immediate danger, dial 911. Remember: people are not suspicious, it is the behavior of a person that is suspicious.
- The District does not recommend businesses board up their buildings. However, if any property managers or businesses have questions with boarding, please contact DCRA at [dcra.abatement@dc.gov](mailto:dcra.abatement@dc.gov).
- Determine what your staffing plan looks like during election season, ensure that security cameras – if owned – are operational, and have business documents (insurance paperwork, lease agreements, etc.) in a safe and secure place. Consider participating in the District's Private Security Camera Rebate Program. Businesses can purchase and install security camera systems on their property and register them with the MPD. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## HOW TO REPORT

- Damage to public spaces: Businesses should call 311 and are encouraged to work through BIDs and Main Streets to report issues and damages to public space assets.
- Damage to businesses: Businesses should contact 311. If you are unable to secure your business due to damage, contact the Joint All-Hazards Operations Center at 202-727-6161.
- Contact your business insurance agent or carrier to file any necessary claims. If you have questions about your insurance options, contact the District's Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking for guidance: 202-727-8000 or [disb@dc.gov](mailto:disb@dc.gov).
- Report suspicious activity to the MPD through the iWatch platform at [iwatchdc.org](https://iwatchdc.org). **If there is an emergency, dial 911.**

