



## **G8 Summit Information**

**Background:** The Group of Eight (G8) is a forum for the governments of eight of the world's largest economies. Each year since 1975, a summit attended by the heads of government has been held. In March of this year, it was announced the G8 Summit would be held at Camp David in Frederick County, Maryland.

The G8 Summit is scheduled for May 18-19, 2012. It is anticipated that visitors from various parts of the country and around the world will be coming to the City of Frederick due to its proximity to Camp David. Historically, the G8 Summits have drawn the interest of protesters. Some of these protests have resulted in riots and significant disruption to the operation of the host cities. While there is no information to suggest that Frederick will be the target of unruly protesters intent on destroying property and disrupting businesses, the Frederick Police Department and the City of Frederick will be prepared to address potential problems. Some of these problems may also include traffic delays and temporary road closures.

**Business Preparation:** Just as the City of Frederick will be prepared to address potential issues associated with the G8 Summit, we are asking that merchants be prepared as well. Here are a few tips to keep your business safe during this event:

- Do not place sandwich boards or other unsecured materials, such as tables and chairs, outside your business that could be damaged or used to cause damage to your property.
- Should you feel uncomfortable or unsafe operating your business due to activity in the area, lock your doors and close your business.
- Make sure your emergency contact information is up to date.
- Have materials and resources available to secure your business in the event windows or doors become damaged. Some materials to consider are plywood, screws/nails, tools, and items to clean up debris.
- Look out for your fellow merchants and be a good neighbor by offering assistance, keeping them apprised of information, sharing resources, etc...
- As always, report any suspicious or criminal behavior to police immediately.

**Flash Mob Protests:** Protests can take on many different forms. While some may view protests as involving people holding signs, there has been a recent trend toward flash mob protests. These protests usually involve groups of people who form quickly on public ways or private property. They can create a temporary distraction to businesses, and may even create disorder through committing thefts and quickly dispersing. Some of these flash mob protests can involve dancing to appear less intimidating.

Not all protesters are intent on creating disorder. Provided that members of the group do not violate any City, County, State and Federal laws, they can peacefully assemble to express their First Amendment Rights. Businesses and residents are asked to respect the rights of those assembled and to report any suspicious or criminal behavior to the Frederick Police Department.

**Additional Information:** The City of Frederick has set up the following website for merchants and citizens to obtain additional information concerning the G8 Summit: [www.cityoffrederick.com/g8](http://www.cityoffrederick.com/g8).

Further information can be obtained by accessing the Frederick County G8 Summit information page at [www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/G8Frederick](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/G8Frederick).

**Police Contact:** Lt. Jason Keckler has been assigned as the community liaison to address any questions or concerns from local businesses, residents and visitors. He can be reached via e-mail at [jkeckler@frederickmdpolice.org](mailto:jkeckler@frederickmdpolice.org) or by phone at 301-600-1231.