

The Resurgence of Detroit (First article in the series)

By Anil Shrivastava (Musafir)



It was a pleasure walking the streets of Detroit downtown yesterday afternoon (July 28, 2016). It's fun to watch downtown Detroit come to life. I remember how deserted it was even three years ago after leaving a performance at the Fox Theater having nowhere to go. No longer! The area is hopping with visitors from all over the US and the globe. If you like art, history, historic buildings, shopping, restaurants, walking or jogging, people watching, music, or museums, there's something for you to explore.



Downtown Detroit has a lot to offer in a fairly compact area. I took a walk from One Woodward Ave. to Comerica Park. The place was packed with people sitting in open air restaurants, enjoying fountains, and even taking a siesta in the open space of Campus Martius. I found Downtown Detroit the most visitor friendly of all the major cities in America I have visited. It has a spacious layout, ample parking lots and garages, well-coordinated stop lights, wide sidewalks well maintained buildings and a safe environment.

Did I say, "A safe environment?" Yes, the actual downtown Detroit area is safer than many downtowns in the US. It has way more cops per capita (41 per 10k residents) than Los Angeles, Houston and Miami. A good measure of safety is young women jogging fearlessly and uninterrupted in streets. I found plenty of them in Downtown Detroit.

Soon, Detroit will be connected by circulating streetcar named M-1 along Woodward Avenue between Congress Street and West Grand Boulevard. There is a massive plan to rebuild the New Center area. It will have 1,000 new apartments within walking distance from the M-1 rail. Also, a new red Wings Arena is being constructed in the same area. The idea is to make that the entertainment center of Detroit -- and one of the premiere entertainment districts in the country.

"People believe the city has gotten it right this time. Everyone is on the same page for the first time."

