



# PAYSBIG.COM/IL

**POTAWATOMI**

 BINGO • CASINO™  
 DOWNTOWN MILWAUKEE

**CRAIN'S**  
 CHICAGO BUSINESS.

[Print Story](#)

 Printed from [ChicagoBusiness.com](http://ChicagoBusiness.com)

## What not to wear during the NATO summit

 By [Ryan Ori](#) May 08, 2012

(Crain's) — Downtown workers may experience casual Friday and casual Monday later this month when the **NATO** summit arrives.

Workers at some Chicago office towers are being encouraged to dress down to avoid being targeted by protesters during the meeting of world leaders May 20 and 21. Safety procedures in some high-rises include the recommendation that employees set aside suits, ties and anything with corporate logos.

Tenants in the office building at 1 E. Wacker Drive received a memo encouraging them to stay away from wearing suits, urging workers to "look like a protester." A spokeswoman for Los Angeles-based CBRE Inc., which manages the building, declined to comment on any NATO security measures.

### **RELATED NATO COVERAGE:**

*"City seeks love at summit"*

*"Details released on NATO security plan for Chicago"*

*"NATO summit may leave Chicago's restaurants hungry"*

At 1 S. Wacker Drive, tenants are being urged to "dress down" in order to blend with protesters, and also cautioned against wearing items or carrying bags with corporate logos. That is one of 25 downtown properties managed by Jones Lang LaSalle Inc.

Mark Anderson, director of security for the Chicago-based firm, said it is not making tenants' dress codes a point of emphasis.

"Some of the tenants have discussed it," Mr. Anderson said. "It really comes down to their comfort level. There's no data out

there to substantiate somebody being targeted or hassled because of their affiliation with their firm or their occupation."

### **Related: [Greg Hinz on Politics: Adler, Shedd told late that they'd be closed during NATO](#)**

It remains to be seen whether executives for Chicago's leading companies will show up for work unshaven and wearing shorts and flip-flops, but the warning shows that building management and security staffs see the need for caution before, during and after the summit.

While some workplaces may dress down, others will shut down entirely amid the threat of potential protests and violence during the summit. At least two banks are closing downtown branches on that Friday and Monday, and others are considering doing so.

Chicago-based BMO Harris Bank will close three of its 30 downtown branches on those days, a spokesman confirmed. Those branches are at 111 W. Monroe St., 141 W. Jackson Blvd. and 99 W. Washington St.

"The branches we are planning to temporarily close are located in areas where demonstrations could take place, so we wanted to help ensure the safety of our employees, customers and assets," the spokesman said in an email. "We have several other branches in the immediate downtown area that will be open during this time.

"The safety of our employees, customers and business partners were key parts of our decision."

Citing security concerns, the Harris Bank spokesman declined to specify other steps the branches may take. But most downtown commercial buildings are expected to have extra security personnel and board-up crews on standby.

PNC Bank will close one of its 38 downtown branches May 18 to May 21, according to a spokesman for Pittsburgh-based PNC Financial Services Group Inc. The branch at 333 S. State St. will be shut down during that

time because it is on DePaul University's Loop campus, which also will be closed during the summit, the spokesman said.

Spokeswomen for Charlotte, N.C.-based Bank of America N.A. and Chicago-based PrivateBank & Trust Co. said determinations have yet to be made on potential downtown closures.

A spokeswoman for New York-based J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. said that "we are planning on business as usual" for downtown branches. A spokeswoman for Chicago-based MB Financial Inc. said the bank will remain open with added security in place.

Last week the U.S. Postal Service announced it would maintain regular delivery, collection, process and retail operations "to the fullest extent possible" but lists more than 60 street collection boxes that will be removed from downtown from May 13 to May 23.

The Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago has provided recommendations to its more than 260 member buildings downtown.

They include securing items such as Dumpsters and garbage cans, preparing for delays in deliveries and informing employees of transportation slowdowns that could delay arrival times to work.

BOMA Chicago's executive vice president, Michael Cornicelli, said he's heard of few businesses planning to shut down entirely, although some people may work from home. Access to buildings is likely to be much more tightly controlled.

"You'll see more security in buildings," Mr. Cornicelli said.

"There will be increased number and visibility of private security. Every building that I've talked to is doing that."

Mr. Cornicelli urged people to be observant and cautious and to steer clear of potential confrontations. But he downplayed the idea of workers camouflaging themselves.

"I don't think the dress thing is going to matter much," he said. "You'd have to go quite a way to blend in with the people participating in the demonstrations.

"I wear a suit every day. It's my uniform. I've walked through the Occupy Chicago protests and they've never bothered me."

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

[\*NATO host committee\*](#)

[\*City of Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications\*](#)

[\*Chicago Transit Authority\*](#)

[\*U.S. Secret Service\*](#)