URBAN CRIME AND SAFE NEIGHBOURHOODS: COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES

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Abstract

In a globally competitive world where nations look to greater economic investments for prosperity, the level and perceptions of safety within a place affects the level of investments. A community is "an interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location or "a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society" Community as a concept can be interpreted as a sense of belonging, a way of life, and diversity with a common purpose. The degree of neighbourhood safety (real or perceived) is a major determinant of how people live.

In a 2004 survey results of community perception on the six top issues of Malaysia then, 42% of those surveyed perceived that crime and public safety was the main issue of concern. This was followed by social and moral problems (12 percent and 9 percent respectively).

According to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, Malaysia ranks 50 out of 60 countries in terms of total crime per capita. Tackling issues of safety is not just about crime and security. Efforts must be made to generate sustainable neighbourhoods and the communities within them. Creating safe, clean environments, providing quality education for children, maintaining inter-generational ties, the reciprocal exchange of information and services among families, and the shared willingness to intervene on behalf of local safety, all produce a social good that yields positive benefit to all residents – especially children and women. Inevitably this means we have to come to terms with constructive opportunities for conflict resolution in the production of social goods through community participation. It is only by engaging the community in the social affairs of their neighbourhood and eventually the city that problems of safety can be tackled. The paper also looks at the UN's Safe Cities Programme.

Keywords: Sustainable Community, Livable, Safe Cities Programme.

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INTRODUCTION

Personal and family safety form one of the basic needs of man, besides food and shelter. Since the beginning of time, Man sought personal safety from the extremes, in caves, and eventually behind barricades and castle walls. The need for safety is so fundamental no matter what civilization, age, race or religion. In today's world where almost 70% of the world's population now live in cities, the issue of safety has become more complicated in that the elements affecting safety has become more complex than ever before. Having a safe environment is so much a factor of the quality of life in cities.

The lack of safety wrecks lives and has a high economic cost. In fact, in a globally competitive world where nations look to greater economic investments for prosperity, the level and perceptions of safety within a place affects the level of investments. In cities internationally recognized and designated as "liveable", the level of crime is almost negligible. When a city is perceived as safe, investors willingly come to set up their businesses.

Unfortunately, increasing levels of crime and insecurity in urban neighbourhoods are a world-wide phenomenon. This is reflected in the physical development of city neighbourhoods and in the lifestyles of those who live there. Fear of violence and crime has discouraged people from using public transport, streets and public spaces. It discourages children from using playgrounds and women and older people from sitting in public places. Residential and commercial buildings are increasingly fortified and closed-circuit television cameras are beginning to watch our every move.

COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS

What is community? A community is "an interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location or "a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society" Community as a concept can be interpreted as a sense of belonging, a way of life, and diversity with a common purpose. A community within a shared common space makes a neighbourhood. Thus, when you ask yourself or a community on their vision of what safety means to them, common responses will be as follows:

a. Being able to walk without fear.
b. Places for people to work, play and live without fear.
c. Children being able to walk outside at night.
d. Not being afraid of the strangers one meets on the street.

e. Walking alone and feeling at ease.
f. The ability to walk around the streets without fear or concern.
g. Walking without fear of danger to person or property.
h. Go anywhere in the city without feeling fear.
i. No fear of crime.
j. A city where individuals feel comfortable within an eclectic mix of different physical designs and social interactions.
k. A place for families to grow and prosper without fear.
l. Pride in community - quality of life.
m. A feeling of security.
n. Enjoying every neighbourhood as if it were my neighbourhood.
o. Homes and schools without bars on windows and doors;
p. A city without CCTVs

The degree of neighbourhood safety (real or perceived) is a major determinant of how people live. It affects how they use public spaces and transportation, as well as how safe they feel inside their own home. It determines the degree of fear and trepidation they feel on stepping outside their home.

In Malaysia and in many developed nations, safety has become a privilege. Those who can afford it, pay for safety by living within gated communities. However, many urban sociologists bemoan the growing popularity of gated communities. They claim that gated communities are exclusionary, elitist and antisocial; in particular, they set off a single group of society, namely, the wealthy, from the rest of the urban society.

THE MALAYSIAN SCENARIO

In a 2004 survey results of community perception on the six top issues of the country then, 42% of those surveyed perceived that crime and public safety was the main issue of concern. This was followed by social and moral problems, 12 percent and 9 percent respectively. The other top issues are domestic politics (7%), unemployment (4%) and education (4%). See Figure 1.

The Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) classify crime by two major indices — crimes against property and violent crimes. The first category includes crimes such as snatch thefts, break-ins and the theft of vehicles. In fact, crimes related to property account for about 90% of all crimes reported every year. Violent crimes, on the other hand, include murder, attempted murder, and robbery with or without firearms, rape and causing injury to victims. Although attracting the greatest attention of the public and the media, it contributes to only 10 % of all crimes committed.
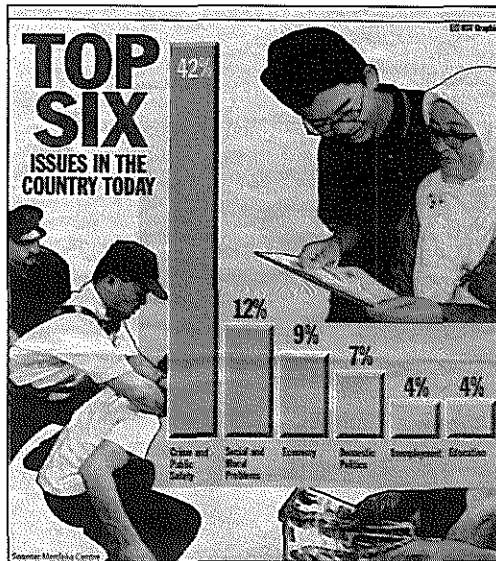
Figure 1: The six top issues in Malaysia
(Source: New Straits Times, 2004)

It has also been reported that in the 30-year period, from 1973— 2003, the police crime index has registered an increase in the number of reported cases of crime. The total reported crimes rose from 40,053 cases in 1973 to 156,315 cases in 2003; this represents a 230% increase over the past 30 years. The police report also highlighted the fact that statistically there is a close correlation in the number of crimes reported to that of the population growth during the last 30 years. This averages to about 3,875 cases per year or about 11 cases a day. It is also a fact that over the 30 years period, violent crimes have increased from 3,192 cases to 22,790 cases. The rate of increase of violent crimes was about 2.7 times higher than for all crimes taken together. In the case of crimes related to property, it is the most frequently committed crimes. Vehicle thefts (cars, lorries, vans and motorcycles) accounted for 41% of the total crimes reported and 48% of crimes involving property. Another 10% was made up of robberies (excluding house breaking and violent theft). House breaking constituted 16% of the total while simple thefts and snatch thefts were 27%. Taken together, these categories alone accounted for about 94% of total crimes reported in the country.

Snatch thefts constitute 12% of the overall crimes involving property. Although snatch thefts can occur almost anywhere, they frequently take place in places like bus stops, commuter stations, along main roads and housing estates. The thief usually rides on a motorcycle, often with an accomplice. According to

police reports, they are usually drug addicts stealing to support their addiction. Snatch thefts are also becoming frequent because there is no separation between pedestrian walkways and main roads. The general lack of care by pedestrians regarding their belongings and the reluctance of members of the public to aid victims also contribute to the rising incidence of snatch thefts.

In terms of the overall crime index, the number of reported cases of all crimes in 2004, per 100,000 inhabitants, was lowest in Kelantan, Sabah, Pahang, Terengganu and Sarawak in year 2000. Not surprisingly, the highest number of cases, per 100,000 inhabitants, was in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Johor and Melaka. At a glance, it appears that there is a correlation between development and a higher incidence of crime. However, it may not be development *per se* that contributes to crime. Rather, rapid development causes deep divides in society; the serious socio-economic imbalance that accompanies rapid development creates a fertile breeding ground for crime. All efforts in development must therefore ensure that these divisions in society are kept to the minimum.

According to the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, Malaysia ranks 50 out of 60 countries in terms of total crime per capita. In fact the following table (Table 1) shows that in most types of crime, Malaysia is somewhere in the middle amongst the nations surveyed.

Table 1: Statistics of crime by type in Malaysia 1998-2000

Type of Crime	Amount/Description	Rank
Car Thefts	55,879	13 of 56
Car thefts per capita	2.33 per 1,000 people	16 of 55
Drug Offences	48.6 per 100,000 people	19 of 36
Murders	551	24 of 63
Murders per capita	0.023 per 1,000 people	34 of 62
Rapes	1,210	26 of 66
Rapes per Capita	0.0505 per 1,000 people	38 of 65
Total Crime	167,173	32 of 67
Total crime per capita	6.979 per 1,000 people	50 of 60

Source: Seventh United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, covering the period 1998 - 2000 (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Centre for International Crime Prevention); UNODC; CIA World Factbook, December 2003, Internet search, www.nationmaster.com/country/my, retrieved on 24th February, 2006

The issue of safety cannot be reduced simply to issues of crime and security. Safety policies that are merely aimed at enforcing law and order are limited and have comparatively little value. Making our urban areas safer places in which to live and work means tackling a wide range of social disorders and incivilities. It means trying to strengthen the bonds that link people to their families, to their schools or workplaces and to their communities. It means trying to give all people, especially the marginalised and dispossessed, a place and value in society. This will only be achieved with political will at all levels of government. It also needs people to be placed at the centre of the process, where they are part of the solution and not simply the problem. Safety is increasingly becoming a private rather than a public good, where wealthier people are able to purchase private security measures to protect themselves. The major victims of insecure urban environments however are poor people who live in urban areas, and it is these people who are least able to pay to protect themselves. The main measure of success, therefore, has to be whether or not the real living conditions of the urban poor and the marginalized have changed for the better.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, SAFETY AND SUSTAINABILITY

We must be honest and admit that in most of our cities and suburbs, there are pockets or neighbourhoods that share common economic and social characteristics. Additionally, there is considerable social inequality between neighbourhoods in terms of socioeconomic and racial segregation. There is also clear evidence on the connection of concentrated disadvantage with the geographic isolation of racial and ethnic minority groups. A number of social problems tend to come bundled together at the neighbourhood level, including, but not limited to, crime, adolescent delinquency, social and physical disorder, school dropout and child abuse. It is also a common feature that in many cities, the community has a perception of areas or neighbourhoods that are safe or otherwise.

But what is a community and why are communities important? What are sustainable communities and what role is there in the context of safe cities? Firstly, a "Community" is 'an interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location" or "a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society'. *(Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary)* As a concept it can be interpreted as a sense of belonging, a way of life, and diversity with a common purpose. *(Hall & Porterfield)*

A neighbourhood is the building block of a community. *(Hall & Porterfield).*
Thus, having a sustainable community within an area would make for a
sustainable neighbourhood. This can be defined as a place where people would
want to live and work, now and in the future. They are safe and inclusive, well
planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for
all.

But what are sustainable communities? There may be several definitions, but
one that is most logical and can be accepted is that by the Office of the Deputy
Prime Minister (ODPM), United Kingdom. It can be summarized that
sustainable communities are those that are active, inclusive and safe, well run
and environmentally sensitive, well designed and built, and is well connected.
It is a thriving community, which is well served and gives fairness to everyone.
As mentioned earlier. Tackling issues of safety is not just about crime and
security. Efforts must be made to generate sustainable neighbourhoods and the
communities within them. The sense of belonging to the society within as well
as outside the neighbourhood, the end to further marginalization, the sense of
family and community values are all fundamental to creating a safe city.

Thus, it is more important to think about social ways to approach social
problems. Too often our policies are to tackle the issues based on statistics of
crime, to reduce the number of criminals from our streets. However, creating
safe, clean environments, providing quality education for children, maintaining
intergenerational ties, the reciprocal exchange of information and services
among families, and the shared willingness to intervene on behalf of local
safety, all produce a social good that yields positive benefit to all residents –
especially children and women.

The good community, at least with respect to public safety, is one that is created
not through marginalization, exclusion of outsiders. Rather, the good
community is one where the legitimacy of social order comes in part from the
mutual engagement and negotiation among residents, mediating institutions,
and agencies of law enforcement. Inevitably this means we have to come to
terms with constructive opportunities for conflict resolution in the production of
social goods through community participation. It is only by engaging the
community in the social affairs of their neighbourhood and eventually, the city
that problems of safety can be tackled.

Therefore, instead of policing the community, it may be better to introduce the
community policing. Community policing emphasizes the establishment of
working partnerships between the police and the community to reduce crime
and enhance security. In the US for instance, most community policing efforts

have focused their attention on co-identification of problems that lie behind crime incidents (for example drug markets; disorderly bars; abandoned housing), rather than on crime only. Although sparse, there is some evidence that community-policing efforts to help residents solve local disorder and crime problems are working in many large US cities.

SAFE CITIES INITIATIVES

In recent years there has been a convergence of thinking in many countries as to the best ways forward to create safer urban neighbourhoods. It is now widely accepted that: crime prevention is not solely about physical security and design and that a range of environmental, social and economic interventions is also needed if crime problems are to be successfully tackled; successful crime prevention requires partnership between public, private and voluntary sectors; local government has the potential to affect crime and public safety through its community safety policies and practices.

It is important to consult the community and involve community representatives in developing responses to crime problems; it is vital to focus particular attention upon young people and the social, physical and educational environment in which they grow up. Ultimately, it is values such as respect, tolerance and love in relationships between and across generations and cultures that will provide the basis for a true and lasting security.

In 1998, UN-Habitat celebrated World Habitat Day with the theme "Safer Cities". This theme was to offer communities everywhere to consider the current state of their cities and to take action to make cities safer and more livable; it also meant making our urban areas safer places in which to live and work, which means tackling a wide range of social disorders and incivilities. It means trying to strengthen the bonds that link people to their families, to their schools or workplaces and to their communities.

"TACKLING CRIME" APPROACHES TO TACKLING CRIME

There are three broad approaches to tackling neighbourhood crime. These are firstly, using the law enforcement systems, including the police, courts, prison and the probation service that are involved in deterring, catching and rehabilitating offenders. A second approach involves making crime more difficult. This consists of hardening potential targets with locks, bolts, CCTV, etc. (known as situational crime prevention). The urban planning and design

aspects of crime prevention also come within this category. This approach basically deals with alleviating the symptoms of crime rather than treating its causes and is of little use in crimes against the person.

It comprises of three main approaches - increasing the effort involved to commit a crime, increasing the risks associated with crime and reducing the rewards from committing crime. The third approach seeks to deal with the causes of crime and involves working with families and educational systems to try and reduce the strong risk factors that predispose young people to a life of crime.

Unlike the rest of Europe, the United Kingdom has placed much more emphasis on changing the physical environment than on changing the prospects of the people that live there. It is now increasingly recognised that, although common-sense planning and design of residential areas and city centres have a role to play in reducing crime and people's perception of crime, they are relatively ineffective on their own. They can only create the pre-conditions for a safer environment and are not a substitute for changing behaviour or attitudes of people. The interface between the design and management of the urban environment is however crucial and needs to be carefully considered.

Since 1990, the Safer Cities Initiative has rested on the twin pillars of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Crime Prevention Through Social Development (CPSD). This approach involves both the practical elements of designing a safe community and a strong belief in social justice and the need to address the root causes of violence and crime in our community. However, there are four strategic objectives of the safe Cities Initiatives. These are:

- Strategic Objective 1: Building Safe Communities through Violence Prevention - focuses on individuals as members of the community and violence prevention initiatives.

- Strategic Objective 2: Building Safe Communities by Caring for the Vulnerable - identifies vulnerable groups in our community.

- Strategic Objective 3: Building Safe Communities by Creating Safe Places - focuses on the environmental plan and considers design options related to urban safety.

- Strategic Objective 4: Building Safe Communities by Sharing Successes - outlines the need to increase positive public perception through effective communication.

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CSPD)

Those approaches that engage with local people and generate a sense of local ownership, involvement and commitment are far more likely to succeed and to have a longer-term impact than those that are imposed on a neighbourhood. Anything can be changed by imposition in the short-term, but if the change is to endure there has to be genuine local commitment to what is being done. There is increasing recognition of the need to apply what works. In the past much unfocussed effort took place with an unknown impact on crime. Problem solving has not been the usual approach adopted by police services to tackling crime problems. It is only in the most recent years that the concept of applying known solutions to specific crime problems has become more widely used. The most effective crime prevention results normally come from dealing with the causes of crime. In order to do this, work needs to be done in co-operation with schools, families and communities.

Therefore the Safe Cities Initiatives has the following recommendations and action plan. Under Strategic Objective 1, i.e. Building Safe Communities through Violence Prevention, the main philosophy is that Safe communities are places where individuals feel a sense of belonging and security; where they care about each other and respect each other's rights and differences. Therefore, in order to build an inclusive, safe and caring community, there is a need to support community initiatives and facilitate new linkages that will address the root causes of crime through violence prevention and tackle issues facing individuals today including unemployment, sexual exploitation, poverty and violence.

The recommended plan of action:
- Violence Prevention Initiatives;
  a) Identify and develop an inventory of current violence prevention initiatives that promotes safe and caring communities.
  b) Establish criteria and develop a process for determining categories and levels of support for violence prevention initiatives by Safer Cites.
  c) Select violence prevention initiatives to support, promote and possibly partner with.
  d) Evaluate selected programs to determine their effectiveness in reducing crime and violence.

- Facilitate New Linkages and Partnerships;
  Encourage and facilitate new and innovative linkages within Safer Cites agencies and among the wide spectrum of community stakeholders, to identify efficiencies, reduce duplication and create new ways of working collaboratively together.

Under Strategic Objective 2, that is building safe communities by caring for the vulnerable, it is essential that safe communities recognize that some groups are particularly vulnerable and that they are at greater risk of being victimized than others. Safe communities recognize the need to help victims recover and offenders rehabilitate. Effective interventions for both groups result in people being able to make positive contributions to their families and to the community. These vulnerable groups, such as those who are sexually exploited, live in poverty and/or are victims of abuse, need services and initiatives to address their needs, advocate on their behalf and empower them to work toward their own solutions.

The recommended plans of action are:
- Victim Initiatives;
  a) Identify vulnerable groups in our community and existing initiatives and programs that address the needs of those vulnerable sectors.
  b) Establish criteria and define a process for determining categories and levels of support for victim support initiatives.
  c) Evaluate and select victim initiatives for level of support by Safer Cities.

- Offender Initiatives;
  a) Identify existing initiatives that reach out to offenders in our community.
  b) Establish criteria and define a process for determining categories and levels of support for offender-focused initiative.
  c) Evaluate and select offender initiatives for level of support by Safer Cities.

- Intervention Initiatives;
  a) Identify and develop an inventory of current intervention initiatives that promote safe and caring communities.
  b) Establish criteria and define a process for determining categories and levels of support for intervention initiatives by Safer Cities.
  c) Evaluate and select intervention initiatives to support.

- Facilitate New Linkages and Partnerships
  a) Encourage and facilitate new and innovative linkages within Safer Cities agencies and among the wider spectrum of community stakeholders in the area of caring for the most vulnerable in our community

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIORNMENTAL DESIGN

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) facilitates the awareness and use of CPTED practices and principles, encouraging the use of and education in CPTED within the City Administration, corporate sector and community at large.

Good design and effective use of the built environment can assist in reducing the opportunity for crime as well as the fear of crime and perceptions of safety. City Councils must ensure that public spaces are well designed and maintained and that safety issues are a key concept in the design of the public realm.
CPTED consists of three design approaches:

1. Natural surveillance – e.g. placing windows in locations that allow intended users to see or be seen while ensuring intruders will be seen as well. This is enhanced by providing adequate lighting and landscaping that allows unobstructed views.
2. Natural access control – using doors, shrubs, fences, gates and other physical design elements to discourage access to an area by all but its intended users.
3. Territorial behaviour – e.g. sidewalks, landscaping, porches and other elements that establish the boundaries between public and private areas.

The three strategies work together to create an environment in which people feel safe to live, work, travel or visit. City Councils should draw up guidelines for the future design and construction of safe public conveniences.

Under Strategic Objective 3: Building Safe Communities by Creating Safe Places, it is the belief that safe communities provide physical environments where people of all ages can safely participate in normal, daily activities. Conscious attention to design can significantly reduce crime, encourage participation in community life and enhance community pride. Therefore, the recommended plan of action includes the following:

1. CPTED / Public Spaces;
   a) Advocate for additional funding supports to transportation initiatives and other public infrastructure that increase safety on our streets and in the parks system.
   b) Explore ways to support City departments as they collaborate to tackle issues of infrastructure maintenance, residential speeding, public awareness about safety at intersections and pedestrian crossings and injury prevention on streets.
   c) Consider partnering with the NGO's and the disabled on accessibility and barrier free initiatives.

2. CPTED / Corporate and Commercial Spaces;
   a) Encourage the development industry and business to apply CPTED principles in their commercial developments;
   b) Foster other initiatives that promote the benefits of CPTED to employers, employees and customers.

3. CPTED / Private Spaces;
   a) Explore ways to create and support initiatives such as *Crime Free Multi Housing Program* and promote the use of the *Neighbourhood Crime Prevention Safety Audit.*
   b) Foster programs which educate homeowners on the values of CPTED principles in ensuring their personal and property safety

4. Pride of Place;
   a) Lend support to business, police and youth to find solutions to graffiti problems, focusing on prevention rather than penalty.
   b) Foster new and support ongoing initiatives that support neighbourhood pride and beautification (i.e. neighbourhood landscape competition, "*gotong royong*", etc.)
   c) Encourage programs that develop a sense of caring for neighbours through helping isolated and infirmed individuals with property maintenance.
   d) Encourage programs that proactively address litter and solid waste concerns (i.e. reuse and recycling of materials).

AGENCY COLLABORATION

No one agency can prevent crime or achieve a safe community. Coordination and cooperation is required from a wide variety of agencies and the community. Adelaide City Council continually collaborates with other agencies and

stakeholders to exchange information and to provide a coordinated response to crime and safety issues in the City. These agencies and stakeholders include:

a. Business Groups;
b. The community;
c. Community groups including Resident Groups, Precinct Groups, Business Watch and Neighbourhood Watch;
d. Department of Social Welfare and other Government organizations;
e. Non-Government agencies; and
f. The Police.

Crime prevention is complex. CPTED and wider crime prevention solutions are likely to be more effective if central and local government work in partnership with local communities, businesses and service organisations. The nature and scale of partnerships to promote safety from crime will vary according to local circumstances. The key partners are local authorities and the police. Other partners and their roles are suggested in the table below:

Table 2: Key Partners and roles in Developing Greater Safety

ORGANISATION	ROLE
Local authorities	Local authorities are responsible for the design and use of public spaces. They have a key role to implement CPTED. In most cases it is anticipated that the local authority will initiate, lead and facilitate the partnership with the police and other groups. Other roles include: • identifying community outcomes; • initiating major works in public areas; • managing public places and assets; • fulfilling responsibilities under the Local Government Act, 1976.
Police	Police play a key role by: • sharing their knowledge of criminal behaviour, types and location of crimes • providing intelligence on hot-spot areas (such as identifying trends in criminal activity) • helping with crime prevention techniques.

Other partners to consider

ORGANISATION	ROLE
Business and shopping centre owners and managers, especially local hospitality operators	Often crime hot-spots are in retail, business or entertainment areas. Businesses in these areas can play a role in helping to better understand why crime is occurring and how it could be prevented. Some solutions may need businesses to play a more active role in crime prevention, particularly if this involves improving the design of publicly accessible places on privately-owned land.
Neighbourhood Support groups, residents' associations, community boards	These groups can help with: • better understanding what is happening in the local neighbourhood from the perspective of residents; • identifying neighbourhood crime hot-spots and areas that trigger a fear of crime; • identifying options for improvement • CPTED safety audits.
Urban designers, planners, architects and landscape architects in the private sector	Urban designers, planners, architects and landscape architects can contribute specialist knowledge to help achieve CPTED, both in new development and redevelopment projects.
Community agencies, groups or service providers	These agencies and groups can provide: • A perspective on crime from different sectors within the community including vulnerable people (such as victims of crime, people with disabilities, young people, children, older people, women, schools and preschools). • A perspective on the effectiveness of design options.
Other organizations that could have a useful role	• Local hospitality operators • Car park building owners • Private developers • Transport providers • Schools

Another important strategy under the Safe Cities Initiative is objective Number 4, which is building Safe Communities by sharing successes. Safe communities recognize that positive public perception of urban safety initiatives is critical in promoting a sense of security and well-being for all citizens. Effective methods

of communication will educate and inform by celebrating success stories and sharing messages that promote community pride. Therefore, it is important that sharing of information be made and the recommended sets of actions include the following:

1. Communication;
   a) Develop a communications plan, with key messages, specific target audiences and strategies that focus on urban safety and crime prevention and raises public and corporate awareness of Safer Cities initiatives.
   b) Encourage media to cover good news stories and strong, effective local successes in crime prevention.
   c) Encourage and facilitate communication and information - sharing regarding safety issues among citizens, community partners and civic departments.
   d) Promote and encourage initiatives or programs that focus on positive, peaceful conflict resolution or mediation.

2. Education;
   a) Enhance the profile of the safest cities in the state by promoting initiatives, including the role of Safer Cities, which contribute to urban safety and violence prevention.
   b) Research and identify best practices that enhance urban safety and violence prevention. Choose best practices that focus on practical and meaningful indicators and outcomes, linking them to the City Council's vision
   c) Support initiatives that encourage the sharing and dissemination of information, increase ease of access to information and move toward coordination of services.

3. Celebration/Recognition;
   a) Establish an award program to recognize successful collaborative efforts and community initiatives in crime prevention and urban safety.
   b) Provide recognition for successful community initiatives in crime prevention through external award programs.

CONCLUSION

Successful communities are places where people live, work and enjoy life in the knowledge that they can do so safely. Places that are safe and feel safe are vibrant and attract people, activity and investment. Therefore, safety and security are essential to successful communities. Good urban design alone cannot be expected to solve crime. However, positive planning, particularly when coordinated with other measures, can make a significant contribution to safety. Taking an integrated approach to each development, where professional disciplines and key stakeholders work together, is important. Tackling the root causes of crime is more important and the social approach to solving social issues is vital, if safety and security is to be achieved in the long term. Community partnership with the police and government agencies are therefore essential in ensuring the safety and security of our cities. Safety and security is not the realm of any one profession or agency, but the responsibility must be shared by all as good citizens of the city.

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