



PRESS RELEASE

Launch of Safer City Pilot Project

Date: August 1st, 2016

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Belmopan Convention Hotel, Constitution Drive, City of Belmopan

The Ministry of National Security, in collaboration with the Belmopan City Council launched the first ever "Safer City Pilot Project" in the City of Belmopan. The use of the SafetiPin App, a free downloadable application, is being promoted as a part of this initiative. The aim is to encourage the proper management of public spaces and city streets to ensure safer neighborhoods thus making the residents of the City of Belmopan less likely targets for those who commit crime.

A key component of the Safer City Initiative is Citizen Reporting where the residents of the City will be responsible for reporting any dangerous situation that they or others may come into contact with via the SafetiPin App. The coordinators of the event highlighted that situational prevention is important for the deterrence of crime in any community and citizens will be able to report on issues such as dark areas where the street lights have stopped working, overgrown areas, areas where they observe criminal activity or any situation that makes them feel unsafe. This data will be used to assist in the creation of evidence-based crime prevention strategies uniquely suited for the City of Belmopan.

The Safer City Pilot Project is being supported by the *Evidence Based Information Management on Citizen Security in Central America and the Dominican Republic (InfoSegura Project)*, which is funded by USAID and implemented through the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The InfoSegura Project encourages citizen reporting, multidimensional approaches and multisectoral collaboration to address citizen security in Central America.

This Safer City Project is just one of the many initiatives that the InfoSegura Project seeks to support in the country of Belize. The upcoming launch of **the Belize Crime Observatory**, the first for the country, is an initiative that is aimed at improving the

quality of data on crime and violence to encourage the development of comprehensive strategies to prevent crime.

Representatives from the Ministry of National Security, the Belmopan City Council, the United Nations Development Programme, the Belize Police Department, Utility Companies, the Belmopan Neighborhood Watch Committees, the Business Community and other Civil Society Organizations were all in attendance at the launch of the Safer City Pilot Project on August 1, 2016.

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