

Safer City Pilot Project

The proposal is the use the City of Belmopan to conduct the first ever Safer City Pilot Project in Belize. The Safer City initiative will be aimed at the proper management of public spaces and city streets to ensure safer neighbourhoods thus making the City of Belmopan a more difficult target for those who commit crime. One of the key components of this project is Citizen Reporting where citizens will be responsible for reporting any dangerous situation that they or others may come into contact with. Situational Prevention is important for deterrence of crime in any community and citizens will be able to report 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. When this type of information is reported, it will provide the officials and decision makers with the necessary statistics to create evidence based policies. The promotion of citizen security whilst fostering participation is undoubtedly one of the pillars of the Evidence Based Information Management on Citizen Security in Central America (InfoSegura Project).

Citizens would be encouraged to use the SAFETIPIN APP to report unsafe situations. The SAFETIPIN APP is a free and can be used to incorporate all spheres of the community in the fight against crime. “SafetiPin works with a range of partners in the process of collecting data and using the data to create safer communities and cities. They include:

- City government interested in designing initiatives to build safer cities
- Police, to use the data to improve safety and security in cities,
- Urban planners interested in the dynamics of a city at night, so as to design safer cities,
- UN agencies and other agencies who work with and support city governments in their endeavour to address the concerns of violence and insecurity,
- Grassroot organizations and citizen initiatives, who work with the most vulnerable populations to address their safety and security needs,
- Academic and other groups working to end violence against women through understanding and designing social systems.”¹

The InfoSegura project also encourages multidimensional approaches and multisectoral collaboration. This project would also comply this requirement because all sectors of the community and society in the City of Belmopan would be encouraged as stakeholders in the fight against crime: Municipal Government, Police, Business Community, Schools, Society Based Organizations. This project is expected to transcend generation boundaries because age is not a factor in reporting crime. A comprehensive approach to citizen security can be utilized to promote this project and to encourage all stakeholders to become involved in creating a safer city.

¹ Extract from the SafetiPin Brochure – www.safetipin.com (to download free app)