



MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Combatting Crime in the City

October 28, 2009

A worrying trend was discovered when more than 90 per cent of respondents in a recent City of Geraldton-Greenough crime survey revealed they did not report witnessed anti-social behaviour to police.

The City's Manager of Community Law and Safety Konrad Seidl said he was shocked by the finding.

He said we hear about, can be subject to and sometimes witness burglaries, assaults and disorderly conduct and the survey revealed the community needs to do a lot more.

"It is astonishing. The crime survey has revealed the community could do a whole lot more," he said.

In response to a need to empower the community and provide information to combat crime at a local level, the City will host a Crime Prevention Forum on November 7 at the Queens Park Theatre from 2-5pm.

Manager of Community Law and Safety Konrad Seidl said events such as these were crucial for a better community.

"Gone are the days where we can rely on authorities such as the police to be the sole combat agency against crime," he said.

"The forum will highlight the positive initiatives that occur with a multi-agency front and how individuals play a part as well."

An invitation to the forum was sent to Geraldton households recently, along with a UV marker pen to be used to identify valuables; and Mr Seidl said the number of acceptances to the forum has been encouraging.

Presentations will be given by the City of Geraldton-Greenough, Office of Crime Prevention, Geraldton Police and the Department of Education and Training.

"The City recognises that its residents need the right information from experts in their field," Mr Seidl said.

"The key message at this forum is a valuable offering of information. It is up to the local community to accept this offer and attend. Working together we can make Geraldton-Greenough an even safer place to live.

"This forum will act to empower the community of Geraldton-Greenough to play an active role in preventing crime towards them, their local area and the entire City," he said.

Bernie Durkin from the Office of Crime Prevention will be presenting at the forum and has commended the City for its proactive approach to crime prevention.

“Contemporary crime prevention/reduction relies on a partnership approach to address local crime issues and this forum empowers local residents to become further involved in this partnership,” he said.

ENDS:

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