



Date: April 19, 2019

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager

From: Robert G. Luna, Chief of Police

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Overview**

At its October 9, 2018 meeting, the City Council requested the Police Department (PD) to report with specific recommendations on how individual spaces such as parks can discourage crime through the use of environmental design.

CPTED is a multi-disciplinary approach to discourage criminal behavior and reduce crime by changing the physical design of an environment. The design can also promote a safer community and improve quality of life. CPTED is based on three strategies:

- **Natural Surveillance** – The physical ability to see what is occurring in a given space.
- **Natural Access Control** – The ability to control access to a site.
- **Territorial Reinforcement** – The use of objects to express ownership and define the transition from public space to private space (i.e. fencing).

PD staff currently reviews all plans for new development projects and provides feedback on site and building design that focus on security, building siting, screening, lighting, video camera surveillance, during the initial project review phase when feedback on project design is optimal. PD is one of the interdepartmental Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members that receives plans for new development projects and provides written feedback on design and security matters and participates in the bi-monthly Site Plan Review Committee where these projects are reviewed for compliance with Zoning Code requirements to ensure the highest level of project design, safety, and security.

A basic CPTED certification course requires 40 hours of training. The course is designed to discuss strategies, methods to assess a location, and directions on how to create and present a report. In addition to Police Department personnel, staff from other City departments including Fire, Public Works, Health and Human Services, Development Services, and the City Attorney's Office are also CPTED certified.

A standard CPTED assessment is very thorough and detailed. The reports include maps, site survey information, crime analysis, and photographs, etc. Assessment costs vary based on the design of the structure and area. For example, a small public space like Gumbiner Park would take a certified officer approximately 10-12 hours to prepare a standard CPTED report. Larger parks or public spaces would take significantly longer.

## CPTED Overview

April 19, 2019

Page 2

An example of a recent analysis of a large open space was the CPTED review conducted along the Long Beach waterfront. Recommendations provided include installation of lighting along the Shoreline Marina boardwalk, and cameras at Alamitos Beach parking lot. Funding was set aside for both projects. The \$150,000 lighting project is underway with completion anticipated in May 2019. The \$200,000 camera project is ready for construction with completion anticipated in summer 2019. In addition to these projects, the CPTED assessment determined that there is some concern with safety at the beach restrooms. This led to a pilot effort to determine the feasibility of incorporating technology into a smart restroom concept. A smart restroom uses technology, mainly special sensors and internet connectivity to help improve the customer experience. Smart restrooms compile regular usage data that helps inform maintenance and operating procedures. For example, sensors are used to help track when someone enters and exists a restroom stall and can send an alert to maintenance staff if someone enters the restrooms but doesn't exit after a specific period of time, or if someone or something (i.e. a dog) is in a restroom stall prior to regular maintenance activities. Sensors can alert staff if someone enters a facility during closed hours and can also help lock and unlock restrooms remotely, which can save the City considerable resources. The ideas and concepts generated from pilot effort are being implemented in new restrooms as funding becomes available.

The Civic Center is another public space project where a comprehensive assessment was performed and the following CPTED recommendations were incorporated into the project:

- Line of sight: "see and be seen," careful design of visibility from streets to make it easier for PD to patrol the space;
- Careful selection of site furniture and hardscape (i.e., minimized space on the top of planter walls to discourage loitering or sleeping);
- Architectural building elements: elimination of shelters/cubby holes where loitering or sleeping can take place;
- Landscape elements: selection of plants and hardscape that do not impact line of sight or create areas for storage, loitering, sleeping, etc.;
- Site maintenance: high standard of site maintenance requirements to mitigate vandalism;
- Natural access control: natural access control by designing walkways, fences, lighting, signage, and landscape to limit access, control flow, and clearly guide people and vehicles to and from public entrances;
- Lighting: well-lighted areas for greater visibility and safety;
- Security cameras: security cameras will be visibly placed around the site.

To implement an effective CPTED review, each public space would require its own individual assessment. With 170 parks, and an additional 3,100 acres of recreational area within the City's 52 square miles, to provide specific recommendations on individual spaces (e.g., parks) would take a considerable amount of department and personnel resources. In general, physical layout and landscape design of parks have an effect in terms of enhancing safety. As resources are available, improvements to lighting, signage, visibility, and maintenance to public spaces experiencing safety concerns are advisable.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or my Chief of Staff Commander Erik Herzog, at (562) 570-7301.

cc: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY  
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR  
TOM MODICA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER  
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
REBECCA GARNER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY TO THE CITY MANAGER  
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK (REF. FILE #18-0899)  
DEPARTMENT HEADS