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From: Neal Hammond [REDACTED]
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To: Law, Justice and Safety Committee
Subject: FW: INQUIRY INTO ALCOHOL AND YOUTH VIOLENCE
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From: Neal Hammond [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, 30 October 2009 4:42 PM
To: 'premiers@premiers.qld.gov.au'; 'ljsc@parliament.qld.gov.au'
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: INQUIRY INTO ALCOHOL AND YOUTH VIOLENCE

Good afternoon Premier, State Ministers, Opposition MP's Federal and State and Gold Coast Magistrates

Neighbourhood Watch Gold Coast is very passionate regarding this enquiry and Youth.

Please find attached our findings on these headings taken over the past year.

As noted our findings and research have been taken from a wide representation of the community and we believe that there are similar findings throughout the State. Thank you for the opportunity to express community attitudes on these very important areas of alcohol abuse and youth violence.

Regards

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'YOUTH AND THE COMMUNITY'

Neighbourhood Watch Broadbeach 20 on the Gold Coast is pleased to report on areas of 'COMMUNITY FEEDBACK' received during a number of group activities undertaken over the past year. (2008 – 2009)

It is not only important to record 'COMMUNITY FEEDBACK' where negative youth activities are involved but when the feedback is seen to be well over 92% in favour of increased penalties, 1pm closing of Pubs and Clubs and educating youth on community values then this is a strong indication that there is a need for reform NOW!

Areas of activities, research and involvement in the Broadbeach, Mermaid Waters and Robina areas involving many members of the community and Neighbourhood Watch including delivering Newsletters have included:-

- Discussions with over 6000 Gold Coast residents during the past year ranging from Families, Business, Seniors and School students.
- Graffiti Audit and clean up (December 2008 and January 2009)
- G C Bulletin – Rescue Patrol Law and Order Panel(March 2009)
- Neighbourhood Watch Gold Coast District forum (March 2009)
- Gold Coast City Council Graffiti Summit (May 2009)
- Juvenile Justice Conferencing meetings – March, April 2009
- Neighbourhood Watch State Conference Brisbane - (October 2009)

As a very active community based organisation Broadbeach 20 Neighbourhood Watch has recorded that the single common area raised has always brought YOUTH matters to the fore!

The Gold Coast Bulletin Rescue Patrol forum at Griffith University earlier in the year discussed a number crime related improvements for the Gold Coast as a whole. The Law and Order panel headed by Gold Coast Police Superintendent Jim Keogh highlighted the need to engage and educate youth on the consequences of crime. The idea being to have a 'shovel ready' plan of action immediately with school visits by Police, Magistrates and community organisations and a follow up bicycle ride by youth in March 2010 - (*YOUTH – ride against crime – recommended by Broadbeach 20 Neighbourhood Watch*) to involve 1500 – 2000 young school students from all around the Gold Coast.

Feedback from the community at large has reflected an attitude that states that Society and the Judicial System (Courts) are too lenient with crime offenders and that tougher penalties are needed. ZERO TOLERANCE has been called for on numerous occasions and works in other areas around the world.

This does not necessarily always mean prison sentences but fines in dollar terms so that offenders feel a hurt in their hip pocket when paying for their misdemeanours. Recommendations include:-

Truancy

Parents are responsible!

And need to lose part of their Centrelink payments or pay some form of fine - \$ 100 each time!

Graffiti offenders \$200 minimum EACH TAG to assist with clean up

Hooning
(50kmph over speed limit) \$500 – first offence – loss of licence – 6mths
\$1000 – second offence – loss of licence-2 Yrs
Loss of car and fine of \$2000 on third offence!

School Assaults Part suspension and fines - \$200 plus Costs
And loss of Mobile Phones.

General Assaults
(Punch ups / Glassing) Min \$1000 PLUS costs for medical / hospital and
legal costs.
Second offence – \$2000 fine, costs and
imprisonment! - - -AND SO ON!!!!!!!!!!

Schoolies should not be a cost to the community and pay a \$50 surcharge for
entertainment.

Juvenile fines may be less but still need fines to be applied or - Parents pay!
There has been too much talk for too long and the community is totally FED UP
and tired of small talk and let's have another meeting?????!!!!!!
THE COMMUNITY WANTS IMMEDIATE AND POSITIVE ACTION!!!!

The Community wants offenders to pay for the costs of all damages and court
costs as well as fines and this includes incidences with hooning, assaults etc. when
victims are hospitalised because of reckless and violent behaviour. There are
laws in place to cover these matters and the community is calling out loud for
these laws to be properly administered.

WHY SHOULD THE COMMUNITY PAY THE COSTS???????

ALL OFFENDERS KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG!!!!!!!!!!

Other areas for change to include:-

- More security with licensed venues – Venues to cover costs!
- Venues to be FINED - \$300 with each excessive service of alcohol!
- 1am closing and raising patron's age to 21 years and over.
- Improved public Transport! Taxis to charge a late hour fee (say \$10) after
2am when patrons are collected at taxi ranks to cover security costs?

More police only means that the community pays again when costs for security
personal can be covered by passing on costs to venues and users (user pays) who
cause these problems in the first place! These recommendations could equally
apply to the Gold Coast, Cairns and the Valley in Queensland, Kings Cross
Sydney and St Kilda in Melbourne.

This is not rocket science and the Judicial System, Magistrates and Judges need
to know that the community is now DEMANDING tougher court penalties.
Please listen to the community who only ask for changes that will enhance life
styles and return community safety and values to an acceptable standard.

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