



CITY OF VINCENT

MEDIA STATEMENT – FROM MAYOR ALANNAH MACTIERNAN

Issue Date: 13 June 2013

Vincent website to publicise names of kerb crawlers

Last night, Vincent Council approved a motion by Mayor MacTiernan to publish on its website the names of all persons convicted of seeking the services of a prostitute in a public place.

Mayor MacTiernan says:

The web page will serve as a deterrent to those contemplating to engage street prostitutes in the City of Vincent.

Information on the page will include the offender's full name, date of conviction by the court and where the offence took place in the City of Vincent. The details will remain on the website for a period of six months from the date of conviction.

This is not about vengeance, it's about prevention. The WA Police usually don't include names on their media releases. We want to publicise this web page and believe it will help us maximise our opportunity to deter people thinking about coming into Highgate to undertake this anti-social behaviour.

We want people to understand: if you come into this area and undertake this anti-social behavior then there's a strong likelihood you will be charged, successfully prosecuted by the police and named. Your name won't slip by and your families, friends and employers will know what you've been up to.

The strategy focuses on the 'kerb crawlers' and not the unauthorised established brothels – a number of those are tolerated within Vincent under WA's Containment Policy.

Similarly, with this web page the Council is not shining a spotlight on the supply side. Prostitution is a complex problem and many of the (20/25 or so) women that operate within these established brothels often have mental or drug problems. Getting to the root of the problem requires a broad approach but this is just one way we can get the message out that this behaviour will not be tolerated within Vincent.

And we're not being moralistic about prostitution either; we know it'll always be with us. Though *street prostitution* is a different beast and we will not tolerate it in any way, shape or form. It is a real problem and really unpleasant for many women in this area who have revolting comments directed towards them from men driving by assuming they are prostitutes.

We just don't want this in our residential streets – it's better off in an industrial area where the quality of life of our local residents is not dramatically impacted.

Ends

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