

**OFFICERS' ADVICE****MONASH CRIME AND OFFENCE STATISTIC UPDATE**

Submitting Councillor: Cr Robert Davies

**MOTION**

*That Council notes the below statistics recently reported by the Victorian Crime Statistics Agency and other data.*

***Budget and internal resource implications***

If the Notice of Motion is passed there will be no budget implications and there will be no impact on internal resources.

***Council Plan and Council policies***

Community Safety is recognised in a number of plans including the Council Plan, A Healthy & Resilient Monash: Integrated plan through the Community Safety Framework. The Council Plan articulates the challenges facing Monash over the next four years which include: Maintaining liveability, changing neighbourhoods and activity centres, increasing densities, and population growth increasing social issues such as social isolation, community safety, youth mental health, homelessness, housing affordability and discrimination. Whilst the Community Safety Framework states in Principle 2 – A Positive promotion of community safety – Council will: Equip the community with accurate, timely and evidence-based community safety information, to ensure residents feel empowered and safe to engage with and enjoy community life. Principle 3 within the Community Safety Framework outlines Coordination, Integration and Facilitation and that Council will: In partnership with leading agencies including Victoria Police and emergency services, positively promote community safety through Community Safety Month and community safety events, programs, activities and Council communications.

It is officer opinion that the messaging in the NOM however is inconsistent with our recent messaging which highlight the enviable position that Monash occupies in regard to community safety.

Furthermore, the latest Community Safety Data shows that Victoria has experienced its biggest drop in overall crime rates in 12 years. The overall crime rate in the State has dropped by 6.2% in the 12 months to 30 September 2017, this is in part, to a fall in theft from cars and burglaries. For Monash there has been a reduction in reported offences of just over 10%, and we currently sit at 58<sup>th</sup> out of 79 LGAs in terms of the offences rate per 100,00 population.

**Work already undertaken by Officers or Committees**

The work of the recently established Community Safety Taskforce is to implement a multi-faceted project that will deliver a positive message around community safety in the City of Monash. The project will seek to ensure that we deliver strong messages that our city is a relatively safe community in which to live. This Notice of Motion will only add to the underlying negative perception of community safety currently be delivered by the media and others. Our newly adopted plan 'A Healthy and Resilient Monash articulates in its Year One Actions that Council will promote Monash as a safe and inclusive community and that we will facilitate programs and initiatives that improve the actual safety of Monash residents. A great deal of work has been undertaken by Council Officers to work in partnership with Victoria Police, Neighbourhood Watch and other organisations to develop and ensure that we send positive messages around community safety.

Officers have undertaken an analysis of the data (using the same methodology as in previous years) as detailed in the table below. It is important for Councillors to note that whilst there has been an increase, Monash sits at **58<sup>th</sup>** out of 79 LGA's in terms of offence rates per 100,000 population.

Crime Statistics - Offences LGA Dashboard				
City of Monash Comparison vs Neighbouring Cities				
As of Sept 2017				
		Offences per 100,00 population		
		Sep-17	Sep-13	
		Total	Total	Growth Rate
Knox		7575.1	5621	35%
Monash*		5843	4803.6	22%
Glen Eira		4694.1	4178.1	12%
Whitehorse		4897.4	4412	11%
Dandenong		12010.1	10851.6	11%
Kingston		6832.6	6145.9	11%
Boroondara		4389.7	4141.9	6%
Stonnington		8999.4	8992.6	0%
Councils with a higher offence rate than Monash				