



## National Institute of Crime Prevention

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March 1, 2022 – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

SB522 – State and Local Parks – Child Safe Zone Program – Testimony of Art Hushen, President, National Institute of Crime Prevention.

Position: LETTER OF SUPPORT

I am writing to **SUPPORT** SB522 - State and Local Parks – Child Safe Zone Program – Establishment (Equitable Access to Safe Parks Act).

The National Institute of Crime Prevention is a global training company specializing in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. (CPTED) Starting in 1999, the NICP began the process of introducing the concepts and strategies of CPTED nationally, focusing on those practitioners who were applying them in the field. As more professionals entered the field, we realized the importance of a standard for professional excellence. After many years of review, curriculum development, and input from a variety of associations and training groups, we developed the CPTED Professional Designation, which has become the standard of training for all CPTED Practitioners.

The CPTED premise is *“The proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear of and incidence of crime and an improvement in the quality of life.”*

CPTED is a philosophy of crime prevention that utilizes a multidisciplinary approach to the built environment that is intended to deter criminal behavior, foster improved quality of life, assist in achieving community-policing goals, and facilitate self-policing by the community. CPTED draws on passive strategies incorporated into the normal planning, design, and management of the built environment. Human-scaled, pedestrian-oriented environments allow for face-to-face social interaction, relationship building, the self-management of behaviors and community accountability.

A relationship-based community park can help encourage and maintain community self-policing efforts to reduce the need for City resources and police intervention in places that may be sensitive to a police presence or have limited police presence.

The NICP has conducted and hosted training for a variety of professional groups, city governments, and non-profit organizations. One of our programs that directly relates to the Child Safe Zone Program, is our CPTED and Parks. Having worked with many cities and conducting hundreds of CPTED assessments of parks, we have an excellent understanding of park use, design, and safety.

Parks are a vital component of community well being. Many neighborhoods are dependent on parks as community centers, allowing them a place to socialize with other community members. For many, parks provide the only form of recreation as part of a healthy lifestyle. Through the use of parks and as part of social engagement, young people learn to develop the social skills they need as they transition into adulthood. Conflict resolution, self-esteem, social problem solving, emotional self-awareness, and teamwork, to name a few. For that to occur, families and children **must feel safe** while using the park. It must be inviting, safe, and provide programs that are engaging to all. These elements can be provided as part of a CPTED program. With input from the community, park safety becomes a community initiative.

For the above listed reasons, the NICP supports SB522.

Thank you,  
Art Hushen, President  
National Institute of Crime Prevention