



Downtown Safety

Problem: What problem are you experiencing that might be solved by technology?:

Public safety in Downtown Eugene is a major issue. A significant portion of that issue stems from the perception that the downtown area is unsafe and that many crimes go unreported. Although many major offenses (e.g. robbery and violent crime) are reported to the police, not all offenses that occur are reported which hinders public safety services provided in the downtown area. Without this information, public safety services cannot be deployed in the most efficient and effective manner. Some crimes remain unreported because witnesses feel unsafe calling the police. However, the majority of unreported offenses in the downtown area are minor offenses. Minor offenses such as illegal camping and fighting, can be perceived by the community as making the downtown area unsafe. The fact that they are termed minor offenses, also adds to the perception that they do not need to be reported because there is nothing that can be done. Given the brevity of many offenses such as fighting and minor theft, it is important that witnesses and victims who see these offenses have the means to report this information to the police immediately. By having an app that would allow people in the downtown area to report crimes and minor offenses they see as they see them, the perception that the downtown area is safe and people have the means to report crimes should they occur, is incredibly important.

Challenge: What technology do you think would solve this problem?: We believe an app that would allow people in the downtown area to use their Apple and Android devices to report crimes they witness in the downtown area would help resolve this problem. Similar Apps such as Chicago's CLEARmap program and Mobile Patrol: Public Safety App,

offer many of the features we would like to see such as reporting data and an easy to use interface. We are particularly interested in an app that would report directly to the police and permit residents to also look at crime statistics and other information about the safety of the downtown area on their phone. We would also want to have the ability to allow users to report crimes through their phones using photos, videos, and audio recordings, all of which are vital in identifying the location and type of problem that is being reported. The app itself would also need to have a simple layout with easy user interfaces that could be used by anyone of any age in the downtown area. In an ideal world, this app would also allow for people to anonymously report crimes that they see to the police through the app. We are also interested in possibly adding to the app that was created for the Downtown Guides last year.

Assets:

Prize: \$500 worth of gift cards to shops and restaurants in Downtown Eugene.

Requested by: Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce

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