



19th May 2011

Re: Graffiti Auditing, GRIP database & Tripwire monitoring system

To whom it may concern

My name is Tim Cooper and I am the Coordinator of the Community Strengthening Team at Cardinia Shire Council, Victoria. Cardinia Shire is situated approximately 55 kilometers east of the Melbourne CBD, and covers over 1280 square kilometers. The Shire extends from the Dandenong Ranges in the north, to Westernport Bay in the south. The area comprises of rapidly growing residential areas and rural farmland, and has been deemed one of the fastest growing municipalities in Victoria - with up to six families moving to the Shire per day.

As part of my role, I am responsible for overseeing various community based projects and initiatives within the Shire. In 2008, Cardinia Shire Council and the Cockatoo Township Committee jointly submitted an application for federal funding under the National Community Crime Prevention Program, to address graffiti issues and anti-social behavior in the Shire. Upon successful application of this funding, Cardinia Shire Council purchased six Tripwire Monitoring systems from David Black, and engaged his services in conducting annual graffiti audits and maintaining a graffiti database (GRIPsystems). My primary role in relation to this project was to ensure the objectives of the project were being met, and included me overseeing the deployment of the Tripwire cameras, annual graffiti audit and the GRIPsystems database.

Prior to engaging the services of David Black, reference checks were carried out and reviews were conducted on previous works completed by David Black for other Councils. We were suitably impressed with his portfolio, and happily engaged his company to perform works in our Shire. Initial works completed and the delivery of information from him far surpassed anything we anticipated. David's team completed the first shire-wide graffiti audit and full data entry of all incidents in just over 3 weeks. Data from the audit was uploaded by David into the GRIP database, and information contained was shared with internal and external stakeholders, including local and adjoining Victoria Police Service Areas.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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Prior to 2008, Cardinia Shire Council previously had not had an independent graffiti audit conducted, and had only speculated as to the exact damage and overall condition in many parts of the Shire. Having annual audits conducted by David has provided us with a clearer direction of how best to manage, abate and maintain a cleaner Shire. As a result of these audits (and advice received from David), there has been a significant reduction in graffiti in our Shire over the past three years.

Furthermore, Cardinia Shire Council had also never used any form of CCTV or covert surveillance equipment to address graffiti and anti-social behavior in the Shire. The Tripwire monitoring system has played a pivotal role in apprehending some of our worst graffiti offenders, and assisted both police and Council in addressing anti-social behavior in the Shire. David's team has been more than helpful in reviewing potential sites and deploying our units at hot spot areas. Tripwire monitoring has provided Cardinia Shire Council with intelligence we would not otherwise have had, and has also provided local police with information in 'real time' of offences occurring at hot spot areas throughout the Shire.

David has been responsive to our needs and patient with the processes that we have to undertake as a local council. Should you wish to discuss the details of our audit, or the works of David's team, please feel free to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely



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