

COUNCIL AGENDA

New Business Item

TO: Mayor and Members of City Council

DATE: January 5, 2009

COUNCIL DATE: January 8, 2009

RE: Convenience Stores: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design - Required

ACTION DESIRED:

Respectfully requesting staff to prepare an ordinance on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design.

RATIONALE:

Convenience stores are subject to a vastly disproportionate share of robberies which are often violent. St. Petersburg has recently witnessed a considerable increase of these crimes. The Police Department has visited several hundred convenience stores and gas stations in an effort to get them to implement simple steps to reduce their chances of being robbed or killed. Frankly, their experience is the same as in previous efforts. The most dangerous locations are the stores that are reluctant to remove the signs from the windows. The removal of these signs would allow criminals to be seen if they attempt to rob the store.

Since ten years of education, combined with a spike in violent robberies is insufficient to get compliance with proven anti-crime tactics, please consider this a request to draft an ordinance to make this mandatory.

FYI: Susan Ajoc is the President of the Florida Design Out Crime Association and is an expert in the required changes needed.

Karl Nurse
City Council Member