

Napier praised for 'safe city' plans

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It comes with a ridiculously long title but Napier's leaders are "hugely excited" the city has won an international safety accolade.

The Hawke's Bay holiday spot was up against 82 other entries from 30 cities vying for 2016 World Health Organisation's Western Pacific Regional Office Healthy Cities Recognition for Violence and Injury Prevention (Safe Cities).

Napier City Council said the accolade was acknowledgement for 10 years of work by Safer Napier, a multi-agency initiative aimed at making safety a priority in the city.

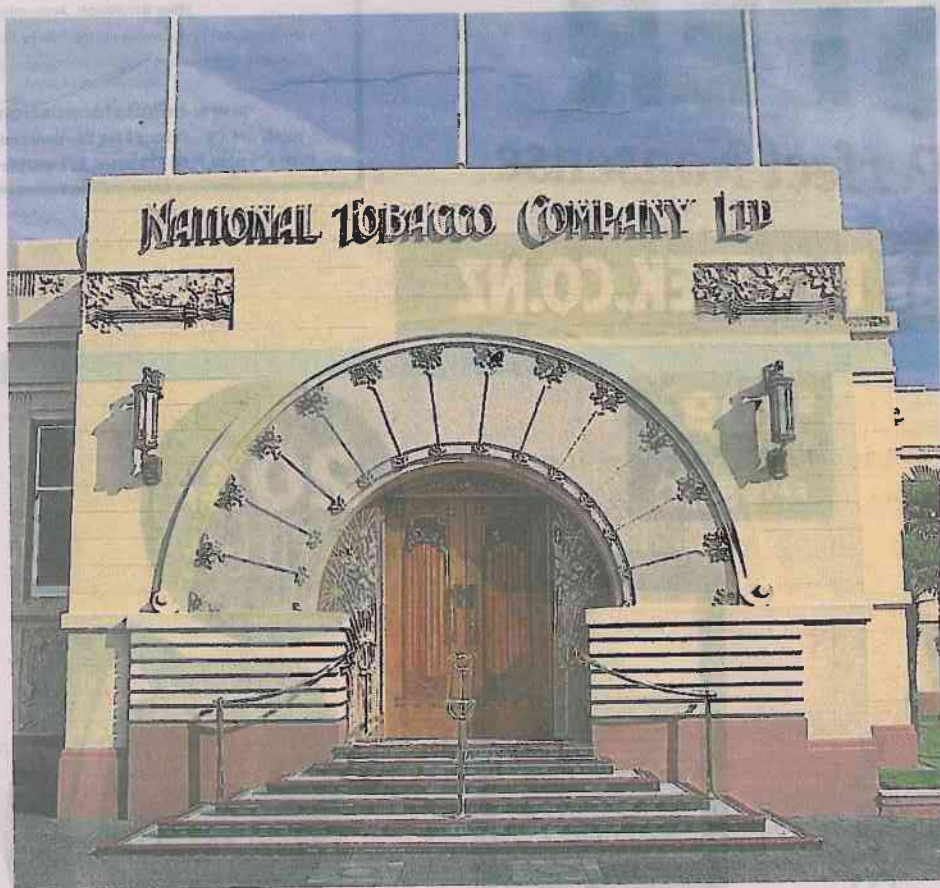
"This is recognition of the massive amount of work that everyone from our 43 organisations and agencies are doing to promote safety in Napier," council community strategies manager Natasha Carswell said.

"Unfortunately, bad things still happen - in all cities and every community - but we believe that every one of us must take on the responsibility of contributing to a safer environment."

Safer Napier tracks progress against a "framework" set by the Safe Communities Foundation New Zealand.

The initiatives it has been involved with include campaigns to reduce alcohol-related harm, increase civil defence preparedness, and a neighbourhood plan to encourage crime prevention, neighbourliness and injury prevention at home.

Napier Mayor Bill Dalton is the ambassador for Safer Napier and has



Napier has won an award for work done by a number of local agencies to improve public safety.

been an outspoken critic on issues he believed raised public safety concerns in the district.

Most recently, he slammed police moves to relocate staff from Napier to

Hastings, 20km away, and to close the police station's public counter overnight.

Napier's win was announced at this week's Alliance for Healthy Cities 7th Global Conference, in Wonju, Korea.