NORWOOD



secretary@ncpf.co.za; [www.ncpf.co.za](http://www.ncpf.co.za); @NorwoodCPF; FB – Norwood Community Policy Forum

**NCPF MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

**THE VENUE @ MELROSE ARCH**

**1st MARCH 2017 @ 18H00**

**MINUTES**

1. **Welcome**

The meeting was opened by Wandile Yani, the chairman of the NCPF. He thanked The Venue for sponsoring the meeting, particularly Trudy and Wayne. New faces are always welcome in the fight against crime in our communities. CPF is an oversight structure in policing, but are NOT police, we report to the police. Our responsibility is that there is accountability between the police and communities.

He welcomed speakers and thanked them for their contribution. There was an emphasis on illegal liquor outlets and Mr Mzamo Mathe from the Liquor Board as well as Hillbrow Control Prosecutor Mr Aaron Masina.

1. **Apologies**

General Ndaba

**Address by Cluster Commander**

In the absence of General Ndaba, Brigadier xxx from (Jhb East Cluster addressed the meeting on his behalf. 7 police stations – Cleveland, Jeppe, Hillbrow, Yeoville, Norwood, Parkview and Rosebank. He emphasised the importance of community involvement, and how important it is to understand the work of the SAPS. Corruption remains a challenge but there are many who do a sterling job.

Media reports should be read in context as some may be exaggerated from time to time. It is important to support your local police and make a difference. Criticism is relevant as we have a job to do, to protect the lives of those in the community. The police need the confidence of the community and the community should not stereotype policing officials.

He recommended getting to know the local station commander (SC), and introduced Norwood SC xxx, describing her as ‘equal to the task’.

Norwood was given recognition for various delivery indicators, whilst acknowledging the need to improve crime prevention. He emphasised that the police and community have a common enemy and should work together as partners.

**Address** **by Hillbrow Control Prosecutor** *- Mr Mzamo Xolile Mathe*

Mr Mathe is the head prosecutor for the Hillbrow Branch Court and reports to the Chief Prosecutor, Johannesburg. Reallocation of tasks in this sector means that each have been given a station to ‘adopt’ and he is responsible for Norwood SAPS.

He reiterated that partnership between the police and community is essential, and failure to build relationships allows crime to flourish.

There can be no prosecution without witnesses so it is important to come forward with this information. Unsuccessful prosecutions are often due to the lack of witness cooperation.

Narcotics are high on the agenda and there are two mechanisms to combat this:

* Establishment of a hotline for gathering information, particularly houses where drugs are stored.
* Prevent the loss of dockets and the correct transportation of substances through a checklist

Prosecutors work in the public interest and wish to work with the community. Any decisions to withdraw a case need to be recorded and this will be followed up. The public is entitled to this.

The Hillbrow Court is a big court which deals with up to 12000 dockets annually. It has an above 90% conviction rate. There are challenges in relation to regional courts where conviction rate is about 70-75%. There are a high number of domestic violence cases.

Yani highlighted Norwood’s interest in dockets that get lost and cases that are thrown out of court. Sometimes the complainant cannot be found. Contact details must be included in the docket so that they can be traced more effectively. The value of checklists was highlighted, including that the complainant remains part of the process. All contact details will be shared by the NCPF.

**Address by Liquor Board** – *Mr Aaron Masina*

The address would provide information on how communities can engage with the liquor board. Masina provided information on the units within the Liquor Board – the Secretariat, the Inspectorate, Compliance and then the Client Relations Management (CRM) with an overview of the responsibilities of each.

He described a sector with many challenges relating to compliance. Interviews need to be conducted with 10 immediate neighbours when granting a licence. Those within the immediate environment will be impacted the most if things go wrong. There is abuse of liquor licences, for instance not supplying food in a venue defined as a restaurant. You may not run a tavern with a restaurant liquor licence.

One-off events can be applied for through various processes (section 31). However, schools and churches are also applying for section 31 licences to sell liquor as part of what were described as fundraising efforts. SGB and church support for this trend creates problems for the Liquor Board which is looking at stricter measures for the sale of alcohol.

Current case is around the Shebeen permits in Yeoville and judgment is awaited. There is expectation that the court must advise appropriately. New letterheads have more security features than previously to prevent fake licences. There are many illegal outlets for example in Vereeniging. Liquor Board can verify the validity of a licence in cases of doubt. Liquor Board will soon be merging with the Gambling Board to streamline some of their operations.

*Questions and comments:*

How long is a liquor licence valid for and can it be cancelled for non-compliance?

*A liquor licence is valid for one year (1 year) and needs to be renewed. When paying the renewal fee which must be on time to avoid a penalty. These have increased significantly. At the end of the second month of non-payment the licence lapses. This means you need to apply for a new liquor licence. At any given stage the Liquor Board can revoke the licence. There are not inspections at the renewal time. The only thing that is required is the previous renewal. The new Act (2014) requires inspection at the time of renewal which is an improvement on the 2003 Act which is currently in use.*

How can SAPS and JMPD assist in this matter?

*Work closely with JMPD by-laws. We organise joint operations. Also includes other agencies such as EMS.*

Role of the women and youth desk in the police station is important as women and children become victims when there is liquor abuse.

*This is more a question for the police although it could be looked at in certain committees of CPFs.*

A number of taverns in Louis Botha, whilst only the Radium is the only legal liquor outlet. Liquor and Ice was cited as an example. Are there regular inspections? What about wholesalers who supply liquor to these taverns, is this legal?

*There is a process in Louis Botha. There are other issues which focus outside our operation. We are currently dealing with this issue. This issue will be dealt with. Regarding wholesalers, they are regulated by the National Liquor Act which falls under the DTI. They only require that you have a valid liquor licence. Most of SAB’s clients are shebeens and taverns! Licencing is varied, including retail, wholesale and distribution. Some do take advantage of the laxity of the situation.*

Note that there are liquor offices at Norwood SAPS. They can also confiscate. Courts would decide if you can destroy.

**REPORTS**

**Mr Wayne Preston – Melrose Arch Security Manager (AMDEC)**

This is a working, living and playing space, and this brings challenges. Most challenges relate to motor vehicles. Issues at the mall have been resolved to some extent though partnership with BIDVEST. Also work closely with Norwood SAPS which offers massive support. In the last year there were 154 incidents reported in this precinct, mostly theft out of motor vehicles. Only 10 vehicles were stolen in the last year. There are major problems with theft from Ford vehicles with a standard modus operandi. Suspects usually use SUV vehicles. Make use of CCTV cameras and in the past week there were no incidents (working with partners ). Described the approach taken to prevention. New developments (new international restaurants) have brought their own challenges. Preston reminded the meeting that the area is private property allowing for a different approach to security. Information is gleaned from various WhatsApp groups and have the potential to work out trends. We need to amalgamate information and work as a group with other sectors. Identified an area where vagrants are a challenge. He suggested that police could be a bit more covert.

JMPD and SAPS may be waiting for customers around corners. This is fine if it is an honourable gesture but more often this does not appear so (eg extracting bribes etc).

**SAPS – Station Commander Josisa**

Station Commander highlighted some specific issues which residents should be on guard about. This included realising that some carguards are working on car theft. She described the approach to be taken, especially so-called security people who are NOT employed by businesses. Reservists will be utilised and work with permanent members. It is being cleaned up in Orange Grove. Operations are planned and the results will be visible shortly. Domestic violence and property crime were identified as being prominent. We should also re-launch a women’s network at station level. This will be done in partnership with the community. Permission will be sought for this and the process will be set up.

*Comment*: Police van parked in disabled parking bay in Norwood. It was noted that details should also be recorded to take this kind of issue up.

*Question*: Police sometimes want to delete photographs taken on a cell phone or may become aggressive. It may be appropriate to report this to a police station.

*Question*: Any long term plans to address issue of vagrants and homelessness? This is a difficult situation which is difficult to answer positively. Even if removed there is a chance they will return. It is better to involve Social Development. Some are genuinely homeless. Brigadier said that JMPD worked well with SAPS. This issue is not a mandate of the SAPS so social development provides assistance.

*Question*: Is there a moratorium on the arrest of illegal immigrants? This is a big issue. There are two departments involved. SAPS arrest in certain cases. Home Affairs deals with this issue. If a crime is committed a sanction must be served first before being deported to your home country.

*Question*: if there is coordination between two departments this is problematic. There is a problem in South Africa and many illegal criminals are here. It becomes a peace problem. So SAPS cannot do much about it. Chairman disagreed with this argument. Gauteng does have challenges. However being here illegally is in itself a crime. Issue of xenophobia was addressed. There is also South African criminality. There is a criminal opportunity which is exploited. We are not against foreigners.

*Spate of robberies in Sydenham:* a case has been opened. Some arrests have been made. 6-8 people have been arrested, some in possession of stolen property.

Warrant Officer provided information on recent arrests and trends with specific reference to Melrose Arch. He confirmed the views expressed by Mr Preston. He identified behaviours which make communities more vulnerable including various negligent acts, such as being aware that you are being followed. Good results for the past month in this sector.

*Comment: Clr Fisher:* Send picture to Whatsapp group straightaway but do not take unnecessary risks

*Comment*: children who do not go to school in Orange Grove as they don’t have fees. Lifeline/NCPF will focus on these issues now. Psychologists will also be requested to be involved in this work at the police station.

A request was made to security companies to submit information to the SAPS and act as the eyes and ears on the ground, notwithstanding some competition between the various entities.

All communities should become part of the process of crime fighting in the area. Nigerian Business Association wants to work with us, they want assistance in becoming integrated into the area. Various issue will be taken up.

Estate agencies should not sell to potential criminals, please do your screening in these communities. Let us not drive people away.

ENDS VF. Draft