



**Minutes of the Community Meeting of the Richmond Hill Special Rates Area held on Thursday 15 June 2023 at 18:00 at The Anchor of Hope Church, corner of Edward and Campbell Street, Richmond Hill**

## **1 Welcome**

The Chairman, Scott Rollo, welcomed all present.

## **2 Present**

Heidi Botha, John Bryce, Linda Clokie, Colonel Frank (SAPS Humewood), Mike du Preez, Konrad Faltein(Waste Department), Claerwen Hart, Sonya Immelman, Nicole Law, Brian Logie, Shawn Lyon, Jonathan Mercer, Alan Mounter, Margaret Matthews, Mcebisi Mpondo, Yve Nicholson, Rory Norton, Chris Parkin, Popo (HRG Security), Ed Richardson, Danie Roos, Sergeant Njokweni (SAPS Humewood), Terri Stander (Ward 5 Councillor), Marianne Terblanche

## **3 Apologies**

Arvind Amtha, Megan Bradfield, Elize Mercer, Michael Eddy, Jackie Norton, Frances Richardson, Rochelle Jordaan, Clinton Swartz (HRG Security), Trudie Wegner

## **4 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2023 were accepted as a true record of proceedings. This was proposed by Ed Richardson and seconded by Alan Mounter.

## **5 Reports**

### **5.1 SAPS**

Sergeant Njokweni and Colonel Frank

Gave a brief indication of what Crime Incidents which took place from 1 June 2023 up until now.

These are cases that have been reported to Humewood SAPS and where SAPS are aware of.

Hot Spots: Increase of Vehicle break-ins bottom of Albany Road all the way through to the Brister House.

Residents are constantly reminded not to leave any visible items at full view in their vehicles.

Information was received of a White Polo who was robbing people. The suspects have been apprehended.

- 1 House Robbery -St Phillips Street
- 2 Aggravate Robberies – Evatt and Russell Road
- 1 Robbery with a firearm
- 1 Robbery with a knife
- 1 Common Robbery

Most of the robberies take place during the evening.

Vehicles do patrols in the area – 1 Vehicle attending to complaints and taking statements and the other Crime Prevention.

- Copper Pipes and Water Meter Theft has increased in the area.

SAPS have succeeded in removing the ‘gangster’ from Smith Street who was dealing with the ‘skollies’ and buying their stolen copper pipes.

Colonel Frank mentioned that Theft has increased since 1 April 2023 until now. Mainly copper pipes, car batteries etc. She mentioned that there is visibility in Richmond Hill and Central. Mentioned that they were busy with an Operation on the Central side but would cover both areas.

Fraud cases are still a concern where people are being scammed out of money, paying for goods and not receiving them.

Business residents and business break -ins have reduced.

Security companies, Community Members and other Law Enforcement members, play a big role by their visibility in the areas.

Theft out of a motor vehicle remain a concern as there is a lot of off-street parking due to no garages.

Incidents of carjackings reported in Central and Richmond Hill have decreased significantly since a team was put together to address the problem.

Colonel Franck mentioned that Joint Operations do take place together with Metro SAPS and The Traffic Department.

## **5.2 Metro SAPS**

Colonel Wade Warner

Mentioned that over the past two weeks, the main incidents were drug related. Community involvement is very important. A call had been received from Eddie Hall two weeks back who reported that a Business Robbery was in progress in Hartman Street.

One arrest was made. Community involvement is very important. All crimes need to be reported.

This will inform Metro police and SAPS about trends and where they should be deployed.

One of the successes was the arrest of five people on suspicion of murdering a homeless person outside the Engen Garage.

Metro patrols are active in the Richmond Hill area.

Complaints have been received with regards to chairs etc placed on the verges by the restaurants in Stanley Street.

It is understood that these businesses contribute to the fiscus and provide employment in the metro.

That is what they have been doing for over 20 years. There is a process to deal with ensuring there is compliance with the relevant bylaws.

Colonel Warner suggested that the Department of Housing and Land be contacted to provide the necessary guidance and process to deal with this matter. The local councillor must be involved in this process.

The purpose is to be compliant with the By-Law or to see if there is any other way to deal with this.

Claerwen raised a question to Colonel Warner: “So you are giving them time to make an application and not just shut down the industry. Is the understanding correct, that they can carry on trading as long as they have made the application and they are trying to be compliant?”

Colonel Warner: “No, I think the proper way to do deal with this is to contact the Housing and Land Department and let them deal with it”.

Claerwen raised a question: Who deals with drug issues?

Colonel Warner explained that SAPS and Metro SAPS deal with this, with the only difference being that Metro SAPS do not have holding cells and the suspect would then be handed over to SAPS.

### 5.3 HRG Security

Patroller Popo on behalf of Clinton Swartz

#### Crime report past 2 months (April and May 2023)

- Vagrants: HRG patrollers remove/move on about 10 vagrants per day
- Stop and Search: Average of 30 per month
- Client/Resident Assists: Average of 60 per month
- Drug Related Incidents: Average of 30 per month
- Arrests: Average of seven per month
- Water Meter/Copper Pipes Stolen: eight in past month
- Broken down and removed a shack - behind coffee shop, cnr Lutman and Edward streets
- Responded to a strike twice at the TVET College
- Monitored suspicious vehicles regularly
- Reported numerous water leaks to the Municipality and Richmond Hill SRA Office
- Confiscated numerous trolleys
- Encountering numerous doors/gates left open daily
- Visible property left inside vehicles

Vehicles left unlocked and/or windows open

Mentioned that there is a problematic house in Suffolk Street where students are living. Supplying drugs to school children.

There are students from TVET College who also go to the Parks and use drugs.

### 5.4 Ward Councillor Terri Stander

With reference to Colonel Warner and the complaint in Stanley Street, the Ward Councillor mentioned that she is going through the process with the owners and mentioned that she has had a meeting with some of the Businesses and offered her assistance in submitting the necessary applications. Some are already busy with applications.

Mentioned that the law enforcement will not remove anything but must be compliant.

Security Guards: Suggested that the car guards must not be tipped. She mentioned that she had a meeting with the businesses requesting that they work together and put up signage stating not to tip the car guards. Suggested that Stanley Street get their own security for a short while. Has proposed a Voucher option where the customer can buy a voucher for the car guard instead of money.

The Ward Councillor has offered her assistance.

Question raised on 44 Mackay Street: No liquor licences application has been handed in.

SRA Office: As far as we have been informed, no Building Plans have been approved.

## **6 RHSRA Matters**

### **6.1 Problem Buildings**

Claerwen Hart

Sharon is following up on all Problem Buildings in our area which is done on a regular basis.

### **6.2 Illegal Construction**

Claerwen Hart

As soon as Sharon receives any information of any Illegal Constructions, the Building Inspector gets informed, and he does further investigation. This gets followed up on a regular basis as well. If you notice anything new or added to a building, please forward this to Sharon to see whether this has been approved.

### **6.3 Little Library**

Claerwen Hart

This cannot be installed at the office as the Landlord has not approved it. We will be taking a bicycle lock and lock it to a lamp pole in Stanley Street. You will be informed of the location.

### **6.4 Cameras and Block Watch**

John Bryce

Three more cameras have been added to the Richmond Hill area. At the moment they are reactive. We are still looking at ways to make it proactive.

John's contact number can be obtained from Sharon at the Office.

### **6.5 Wild Park**

Alan Mounter

Ongoing Project. All in order.

### **6.6 Homeless – MES (Mould Empower Serve)**

Malcolm MacLean

Things have quietened down in terms of occupancy. The shelter is currently sitting at approximately 80%. A lot of these homeless people, do not want to be in a controlled environment and prefer to be out in the street. When the weather becomes cold, they start coming into the Shelter. With unemployment, we know that it has a knock-on effect. That is where addiction and alcoholism and homelessness come into effect.

Meal vouchers are available to buy. Every cent would help. Mess is running a National Winter Hope Project. Malcolm will send the information to the office to distribute into our suburb.

Ward Councillor mentioned that they have been working on the Aberdeen's Building, 62 Russell Road, since early last year. It would be great for a shelter. It was under the management of the Mandela Bay Development Agency. However, just as it was going to be awarded to someone, the Metro wanted it back. So, what they want the building for I have no idea. The Ward Councillor mentioned that she would be sending out the petition that already has quite a few signatures but would be sent out again.

## 7 Matters arising

### 7.1 Finances – payment of rates and levies

Scott Rollo

When we say Finance and Payment of rates and levies, this directly affects how effective we can be. We rely on the funding which comes out of the rates paid and currently only sitting on 60% collections. Our income and ability to do anything has been reduced by 40%. We have no other fund mechanisms. This is what we operate on. No salaries are being paid to the Directors. If no rates are paid, the SRA does not get funding.

### 7.2 Car Guards

Resident raised a question about the car guard situation in Stanley Street whether there were By Laws in place.

Colonel Warner mentioned that there is a by-law with regards to illegal car guards and the solicit of money. He mentioned that all the car guards must be registered. He recommended that the Municipal Security Services Department are contacted. They are dealing with the registry, checking their criminal records. This Department can provide all the information needed.

He also suggested that these issues are brought to the attention of our Ward Councillor.

Scott mentioned that in the Western Cape, many establishments, restaurants have prominent signage up in red and white, no tipping of car guards allowed. Suggested that we have a drive on this for our area.

## 8 Conservation Stats:

<b>April 2023:</b>	2407 bags taken to the tip – plus boxes, branches and other Kilometres travelled – 1626 Trips to the tips – 43
<b>May 2023:</b>	2121 bags taken to the tip – plus boxes, branches and other Kilometres travelled – 1581 Trips to the tips – 36

## 9 Next Meeting

10 August 2023

## 10 Close

The Chairman thanked all present for attending. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 19:10.

## Approval of Minutes

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Chairman

Secretary

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Date

