



Minutes of the Community Meeting of the Richmond Hill Special Rates Area held on Thursday 11 April 2024 at 18:00 at The Anchor of Hope Church, corner Edward and Campbell Street

## 1. Welcome

The Chairman, Ed Richardson, welcomed all present.

X.Mesatywa	P. Hammett	D. Roos
J. Bryce	A. Amtha	F. Richardson
C. Cull	M.Eddy	M. Terblanche
Y. Nicholson	L.Faure	M. Faure
A. Warneke	C. Warneke	S. Immelman
C. Parkin	M. McLean	C. Hart
P. Ganta	H. Kotze	M. du Preez

Lennox (Patroller) (HRG Security)	Lt Colonel Mgweba (SAPS Humewood)
Sergeant Njokweni (SAPS Humewood)	Colonel Paulson (Metro SAPS)

## 2. Apologies

Tony Bastos, Margo Bastos, Jonathan Mercer, Rochelle Jordaan, Jacques Jordaan, Megan Bradfield, Dave Whinney, Margie Whinney, Trudie Wegner, Rory Norton, Jackie Norton

## 3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed by Chris Parkin and seconded by Danie Roos.

## 4. Matters arising from previous minutes

No matters arising

## 5. Reports

### 5.1 SAPS Lt Colonel Mgweba

Lt Colonel Mgweba mentioned that our Sector 1 does not have any very serious crime being reported at present.

The participation between all the relevant departments and community has a positive effect. The area does not require intense policing given the present statistics.

Main problem is Theft of Motor mainly between Govan Mbeki Post Office and Taxi Rank. One unfortunate crime taking place is Robberies. SAPS is trying to suppress this crime as they do not want it to look like Central or any other area.

Metro Police, Traffic Department and Security company plays a big role in assisting SAPS in the area.

SAPS are doing their best to control any incidents. When SAPS visibility is seen in the area, it does help to prevent crime.

Sergeant Njokweni is the Crime Sector Manager for Sector 1. He can be contacted 076 563 1285 or Lt Colonel Mgweba can be contacted on 082 303 0588.

Lt Colonel thanked the community for getting involved.

## 5.2 HRG Security Patroller Lennox

- Vagrants: 14-16 vagrants are removed per day/night
- Stop and Search – Conduct an average of 30-40 stop and searches per month
- Client/Resident assets – Average response to client requests - 100 responses per month
- Drug related issues –Respond to an average of 30 per month. HRG mentioned that even young kids are being used as drug mules to run drugs
- Arrests – Numerous arrests made monthly. Some stolen property returned, and no cases opened – hence the police statistics
- Water meter / Copper pipe responses – Theft thereof - Average of 10 per month
- With Magnum Alarms, we respond to suspicious behaviour of people every night. This is very successful as people realise that they are being watched
- Assisted to extinguish fires weekly
- Report numerous of water leaks weekly
- Confiscate trolleys and are removed by Alan, Richmond Hill SRA
- Problem – Visible property left inside vehicles parked on street continues to be a problem. Windows are even found left open, etc.
- Vehicle emblem theft - on certain type of vehicles remain a huge problem
- Numerous calls to try and assist with Noise Complaints from properties

HRG Security has requested that residents call and/or WhatsApp for ANY suspicious behaviour for us to attend to such possible incidents

We also kindly ask residents to not feed vagrants, as this remains a huge issue. There is feeding schemes that they can refer them too.

Reminder for residents to call if you have an emergency for immediate response. HRG Security try to respond to WhatsApp's as soon as possible.

Chris Parkin mentioned that Sia was a problem person in the area. He is always a demanding beggar. He is also very aggressive. SRA Office to bring this to the attention of Social Development.

## 5.3 Metro Police Colonel Paulsen

Vagrants: Colonel Paulsen mentioned that they are Innated with complaints about vagrants. What can we do with them There is no law against a homeless person. It is a problem. We are sustaining them by giving them food etc. They will come back for more. Metro Police have removed them from one area to another, so basically just getting shifted around.

They will come back as they know they will get food and money.

You as the community must stop sustaining them. Rather donate the food or money to any Churches and NGOs.

In Port Elizabeth, Social Developments assistance is nowhere to be found.

Residents are putting their refuse bags in night before time, do not do that. This brings the vagrants into the area to scratch in these bags.

Some of these homeless people do have homes. They prefer to be on the street as they eat better on the street than at home. Same with drugs, easier on the street.

Claerwen mentioned that when she called Metro SAPS for a Noise Complaint, the member on duty did not provide her with an Occurrence Book Number. The member mentioned that they will give an OB once the complaint has been attended to.

Colonel Paulsen asked for the details to investigate this matter.

Colonel Paulsen said that this number can be used : Metro SAPS Control Room number is: 041 508 5501.

#### **5.4 Ward Councillor**

Terri Stander

No apology

#### **6. RHSRA Matters:**

##### **6.1 Problem Buildings Chairperson**

Richmond Hill SRA Office follows up continuously on any problem building/properties. If you do know of any problem buildings, please pass this on to Sharon at the SRA Office who will escalate to the relevant departments.

##### **6.2 Illegal construction Chairperson**

If any illegal constructions are noted taking place, inform the SRA Office so that the Building Inspector can be informed. 4 Stanley and 44 Mackay Street are currently being investigated by the Legal Department.

##### **6.3 Cameras and blockwatch John Bryce**

The SRA has submitted its business plan which includes installing monitored cameras in certain areas in Richmond Hill. After approval, new rates will come into effect from 1st July, and therefore funding will become available in August 2024, and initial camera installation roll out can begin.

To be prepared for the roll out, Ed has formed a "Camera Committee", consisting of community members, and called a meeting.

Concerns and questions were raised at the meeting. One of the questions raised was the playback footage only containing human movement, with gaps when no human is in camera area of focus. Magnum have explained that the amount of data needed to record 24/7 would be excessive. This is currently under investigation to establish if any

improvements would be possible. Please direct all questions and concerns in writing to the SRA office. The camera committee will address the issues and respond as soon as possible. We welcome involvement and appreciate community input that will ultimately enable the success of this initiative.

Currently 16 cameras are installed and being monitored. From August the SRA will be taking over the monitoring fees of all these cameras, as well as reimbursing persons who installed cameras under this initiative. We thank these owners who could join in the pilot trial which will ultimately benefit the entire community. Now to focus funds on initial roll out, we respectfully request that, where possible, these owners agree to be reimbursed as funds become available. If reimbursement is needed sooner, please contact Sharon and arrangements can be made.

A master list will be created by SRA which will include name, address, contact number, camera serial number plus equipment, signature, date of installation, camera CCTV name, and remarks, etc.

This list will only be available to Sharon and all liaising/communication will be done through or by Sharon (unless otherwise approved by Sharon).

Terms and conditions of having a camera fitted at a property will be signed by owner and a copy retained by SRA and Magnum.

HRG, Magnum and SRA will provide the camera committee with a map showing best camera locations with phase one being car and pedestrian entry/exit points for SRA boundary.

Proposal for discussion: The SRA would then start with contacting residents in the locations to establish suitability, consent, shortfalls, special requirements, etc, and linking name, address, contact number, if suitable, with camera location (Data to be exclusive to Sharon). If not, suitable SRA would then feedback to Magnum and HRG and next best location would be researched. A roll out list would be drawn up and residents would be asked if the installation date allocated to them is in order or if would they prefer another date. Once the roll out begins Magnum would then contact Sharon 3 days prior and confirm installation date. Sharon would confirm with resident and agree on date, time, introduction, safety, recognition letter, etc. Sharon would inform Magnum on details and Magnum would proceed with installation.

All the above is open to debate, but the starting point is a camera location map.

Chairperson mentioned that the Fisheries in cnr Glen/Stanley Street will be installing 7 cameras.

#### **6.4 Wild Park Chairperson**

Mentioned that a meeting took place in the Wild Park with Waste Management, SRA, the Managing Agent of Estment Heights as well as the Ward Councillor. The Ward Councillor is to put in a request to the relevant departments as well as The Managing Agent of Estment Heights to clean up the mess behind the block of flats which is ongoing.

### **6.5 Water Meters – unsatisfactory covering up Chairperson**

Contractor informed Sharon that they are still busy installing new water meters. They ran out of water meters but have started again. They will be doing reinstatements as well as collecting all mess left behind. Any problems, please send the information through to Sharon at the SRA Office.

### **6.6 Homeless – MES (Mould Empower Serve) / Homeless JOC Malcolm**

A Joint Operations committee was formed by Central SRA, called various Non Profit organisations together, SAPS and Metro.

Attendance at the first meeting 50 people

2<sup>nd</sup> meeting dropped down to 25, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to 15.

The MBDA has informed us that they will now be using the Aberdeen's Building, so unfortunately that is not available anymore.

Three buildings have been identified. The process is in progress. Once a decision is made, hopefully at the next meeting we will have good news.

### **6.7 Richmond Hill Heritage Walk Malcolm**

The next Heritage Walk will be on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024. All interested parties to give their details to Sharon at the SRA Office.

## **7. Matters arising:**

Russell Road Project: A word of thanks to Steve de Beer for his initiative and being pro active in the Russell Road Project. He is doing such a great job. Thank you to Steve and his Team.

## **8. Conservation stats:**

February 2024 and February 2024:

Bags taken to the tip 4224- plus boxes, branches, and junk

Kilometres travelled – 3761

Trip to the tips – 85

## **11. Date and place of next meeting**

The next Community Meeting will be held on the 13 June 2024.

## **12. Close**

The Chairman thanked all present for attending. The meeting adjourned at 18:50.

---

Approval of Minutes

---

Chairman      Secretary

---

Date