



CONSTANTIA KLOOF NORTH RESIDENTS AGAINST CRIME 'CKN'

www.ckn.org.za

Formed 1st May 1997

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25 October 2017

Dear CKN resident

SPECIAL CRIME NEWSLETTER

We don't usually print newsletters anymore for distribution in CKN but I thought we would both send this one out electronically and drop a copy in your post box. At the time of writing two important matters have arisen. The national crime statistics for the last financial year were released and CKN experienced three crime incidents in four days. Herewith my take on these two matters.

These are matters you need to know about.

Admittedly I am not surprised at the figures released by the police. I have been involved with Honeydew SAPS and other precincts for some 18 years and have not seen any progress in the fight against crime. Furthermore, I am on various crime fighting/emergency groups both locally and nationally. Things are not improving. Of course, we need to look at our own local policing area and it is not a pretty picture. In fact, it is downright horrible.

Honeydew is overall the 4th worst station in the crime statistics. That is the station where the 4th most crime was reported. Honeydew is number one in the country for house robberies, number two for burglaries, fourth for theft of motor vehicles and worst of all, number one for what is called the trio crimes – hijacking, house robberies and business robberies. That is out of some 1200 stations in the country. If this was not a sobering thought, then I am not sure what is?

A breakdown of the stats can be found at www.saps.gov.za.

In short some of the figures for the period April 2016 to March 2017. This is for Honeydew.

Murder – 67

Robbery with aggravating circumstances – 1 183

Rape – 130

Carjacking – 149

Robbery at homes – home invasions – 337

Burglaries at homes – 1 340

Theft of motor vehicles or motorcycles – 1 269

So where does that leave you and me?

After some 20 years we have a strong CKN. We have not sat back and done nothing. Many folk in the area have joined the cause and supported those that had a vision of a safer (and cleaner) CKN. CKN has never guaranteed we would be crime free but we have taken on the crime fighting battle and have decided we can make a difference. I think that difference can be seen in the crime statistics for the area. Crime fighting is not a sprint but a long marathon.

It saddens me to think there are those that will not get involved in an area. I think they live not knowing their neighbours or what is happening in the area. Furthermore, when they are affected by crime they say "I never thought it would happen to me" and then, "where do I get involved?"

Involvement in CKN does not mean we want hours of your time and large amounts of money. We ask for your time at ad hoc times and our financial ask is a small one.

Your committee believes in your safety and asks for your support. Furthermore, the CKN crime fighting model is unlike the ones of many associations out there. We are not a take it or leave it resident association. Many areas insist on a set fee or "punt" a security company but then leave it to the security company to sign up members and once a certain amount are reached, a dedicated car is introduced.

We say join us, yes, we have an amount we ask, but if this is not affordable we will make a plan. I have always said safety first. But we can't make membership free. Why? We have all seen the two Dowry armed response cars in the area along with a guard on a bicycle. These crimes fighting initiatives are driven by CKN and come at a price. Dowry invoices CKN monthly and we pay for these dedicated officers. Our aim is to cover these costs and hence we can make allowances for those that are financially constrained or are pensioners. You have the benefit of access to these cars. This is a numbers game. More members, more cars or a reduced CKN contribution.

The last few days saw three crimes in CKN. One burglary and two armed robberies. The armed robberies are something we have been able to escape till now and our burglaries are way down on last year.

The armed robbery on Saturday does appear to have been opportunistic. Suspects jumped the fence and entered the house through the open garage. The owner was held at gunpoint and a laptop and cell phones were taken. We have the car on camera and the details are with the police. When the police arrived their first comment to me was that armed robberies do not occur in this part of the precinct.

Monday saw a burglary and it seems the suspects jumped over the wall from Jim Fouche. TV taken. No car or suspects seen. We are busy with the camera footage as we know what time the alarm was activated.

Then on Tuesday a gate was lifted and the front door forced. An elderly couple was confronted by some young males and threatened with a crowbar. TV taken. No car seen.

I will point out two things. None of these residents were members and so were not getting our regular emails or our WhatsApp messages and both were linked to two large security companies. I always get asked when we have a crime if the people were members.

To add to these incidents, I was told two stories about the lack of service and response from the security companies. Make your security provider accountable and think three times about who you use. CKN has never said who to link your alarm to. We have a preferred service provider who I talk to daily, check on and also chase up with queries and issues raised by residents. They know I do not compromise on safety. There is no second chance when one's life is at stake!

So, after a very quiet year, 8 incidents for the year till 20 October, we experienced three crimes in a short space of time. We can only but speculate as to why these homes were targeted. My message to you is CKN is not falling apart. I know this is little comfort to any victim of crime but we will do all we can to make CKN safe for all who live here with the limited time and resources we have.

Many folk get very concerned when we do have an incident, let alone three, as we are used to very long quiet periods. Again, we have had a good year in comparison to some past years, especially when we compare ourselves to the crime in and around Honeydew.

As a non-member, please join us. Don't wait till after the event. We need you too. CKN has become one big family, I see this when I report an incident and everyone wants to come and help. People are there in so many other ways as well. Only together can we make a difference.

Crime is not going to go away. The crime stats over the past years show that. Having a CKN is your choice.

That is my take on things so thank you for bearing with my thoughts.

Thank you to the many that support the committee and have kept CKN sustainable over many years.

Stay safe

John