

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

FINANCE

- The SRA completed its financial year on 30 June. No budget item was over-spent. Other highlights include:
 - The budget for Core Business (Public Safety, Cleansing, Social Upliftment and Environmental Upgrading) was 98% utilized
 - General Expenditure on non-core activities costs were contained to 66% of the budget.
 - Approved operational projects were 40% underspent
 - The SRA ended the year with cash on hand of R509,830. Of this, about R250,000 must be held as a permanent reserve to provide for unexpected contingencies, leaving about R260,000 available for allocation to various SRA projects.
- The SRA's annual financial statements have again received an unqualified audit. A copy of the accounts will shortly be posted to our website for perusal.
- The City has approved the SRA's budget for 2017/2018 at R1,488,571, which is a 7.1% increase on the 2016/2017 budget of R1,383,009. The additional SRA rate for this financial year is 0.000494 in respect of residential properties and 0.001576 in respect of commercial properties. These rates remain among the lowest of the 40 SRAs approved in Cape Town thus far.

UTILISATION OF AVAILABLE SURPLUS

The major portion of available funds were intended to provide for the costs of engagement by the City of a local resident as an Auxiliary Law Enforcement Officer, trained and equipped by the City. This officer would have full powers of arrest and would assist greatly in ensuring public safety and a clean and orderly community. However, we have been advised by the City that the Rent a Cop program is undergoing review and we therefore cannot expect the provision of such an officer in the near term.

The board therefore recently approved expenditure on a number of projects, including:

- A short term contract for Carin Mackinnon-Little to assist with the management of informal car guards in partnership with the newly revitalized Kalk Bay Business Association
- The acquisition of two way radios to assist in the co-ordination of the activities of private security guards in conjunction with the SRA's contracted public safety contractor
- Refurbishment of a security trailer that will be a satellite base for SAPS and other public safety officers in our area
- A contribution to the cost of installing a well at Lever Street park to enable year round watering of the park
- The installation of barriers to protect a number of drought resistant succulent plants to be planted in Main Road, Kalk Bay
- The engagement of a male social field worker to support the activities of our female social field worker. Both of them support the activities of Marion Thomas, the SRA's social worker.

The board is also currently carrying out a detailed investigation and costing of the possibility of refurbishment of existing security cameras and the installation of additional cameras. A further report on this will be provided next month.

CRIME REPORT

We remind members that the SRA took a decision three years ago to base its Public Safety strategy on "the Bobby on the beat" - the visibility and frequency of foot patrollers.

The SRA tries to measure EVERYTHING we do. Hence, we track the performance of the Lake Security patrollers EVERY day and compile monthly reports of their activities and incidents. We refer to the number of crimes reported to Crimewatch as a means of tracking the effectiveness of our strategy. Although this is obviously far from perfect, it does provide a routine yardstick against which to gauge our performance.

Our monthly crime stats show that:

- LS patrollers passed each of about 68 electronic buttons throughout Kalk Bay and St James 8 times a day throughout the month, even though they are contractually obliged to do this only 4 times per day.
- No station was visited less than 4 times in a day throughout the month.
- Only 2 crimes were reported to Crimewatch during the month. In case this seems unreliable and improbable, compare this to the spike in reported crimes in April and May. Also, to compare "winter crime off season" numbers, compare the number of crimes reported in July this year with previous years.

Of course, the SRA is not at all complacent and are fully aware that two issues in particular need concerted action: the rastas in Kalk Bay and the coastal walk way in St James.

TIDAL POOLS

The City is currently in the process of appointing a new contractor for the cleaning and maintenance of the tidal pools. They are therefore currently in a poor state and very slippery. Caution is advised.