

Kalk Bay and St James SRA

Holiday Season Report: February 2018

The SRA extends its sincere condolences to the family of Mr Doug Notten, a St James resident, who was murdered on Kalk Bay mountain last week-end as well as the other recent victims of attacks on the mountain.

Although the mountain, owned and controlled by SANP, falls outside the SRA's area of activities, the SRA is naturally very concerned about these appalling attacks and is in constant contact with SANP to prevail on them and SAPS to take whatever measures necessary to end these attacks.

Easy access to and from the mountain is one of the great benefits of life in our village. However, this ease of access is increasingly also a problem in that the mountain provides shelter and access for criminal elements. The SRA has been approached by a working group who have worked hard to improve public safety in the vicinity of Behr Road and the Fisherman Flats, an area particularly exposed to criminal activity from the mountain above their area, for assistance in providing access control measures. The SRA has accepted that this is a public safety issue that affects our broader community and has voted contributions to install public access control measures at Ladan, Behr and Quarry Roads and at the Fisherman's Flats. This group of local concerned residents, in close liaison with the City and SANP, continues to be very active in doing what they can to promote public safety in their area. Their efforts are commended.

These incidents, and the knife attack on a local St James resident on the Muizenberg/St James walkway, marred what has been another very successful holiday season as far as public safety and cleanliness is concerned. At a recent debrief meeting arranged by the City and attended by SRAs and community organisations from Lakeside to Fish Hoek, there was general agreement that the past holiday season was the safest for many years, despite the influx of many thousands of visitors. Thanks were expressed to all law enforcement agencies for assisting in this, particularly the City Law Enforcement and Traffic teams.

SAPS and City Law Enforcement deployed many additional members to our area and made good use of the SRA security trailer recently installed in Kalk Bay. The SRA received many comments from local residents, businesses and visitors on how safe and clean our village was over the holiday period.

Further confirmation of this is from the SRA's crime statistics that show that only 3 incidents of crime were reported to Crimewatch in December, down from 6 in December 2016 and 25 and 26 in December 2013 and 2014 respectively. These 3 incidents include the 2 attacks on the Muizenberg/St James Walkway. In January 3 incidents within the SRA were reported (i.e. excluding the 2 incidents of attacks on the mountain), which is lower than the 4 incidents in January 2017 and also considerably lower than previous years.

Other recent initiatives in our SRA include:

- Four existing security cameras in Kalk Bay have been upgraded and a wi-fi link established from these to the Mountain Men control room in Muizenberg who will monitor them 24 hours per day. This system will be operating from today Friday 2 February. It is intended to link this system in due course to the City control room in Lakeside that will in turn link to the City wide EPIC fast reaction system
- Three new cameras will soon be installed in St James to cover St James Beach and Danger Beach areas, together with the station and adjacent Main Road area. The overall system has capacity for 40 cameras enabling potential linking to private cameras that cover public spaces. The SRA also hopes to set up a small monitoring room in Kalk Bay to be manned by local volunteers.
- Due to lack of budget, the harbor authorities were not able to provide cleaners required to keep the harbor beach clean over the holiday period. However, thanks to a generous contribution received from PET Plastic Recycling, the SRA was able to work with the harbor authorities and the Haven night shelter to provide and fund a team who kept the beach area in great condition throughout the holiday period. Thanks to all for your contributions.
- A working group is being formed between our SRA and the Muizenberg Improvement District and community groups to develop a plan to better address crime on the walk way. The SRA has received pledges of financial help from residents and others if a properly costed plan is developed.

Water Crisis

Based on recent discussions with the City and a number of local groups in the Far South a local working group, led by the Ratepayers Association, is being formed to understand and collate local needs that are likely to arise as a result of the water crisis and to prepare local residents in a practical way for Day Zero. For example, this group will disseminate information (e.g. water collection points) and facilitate the formation of local street working groups to identify local issues and assist those who need physical assistance.