

## REPORT ON A SUCCESSFUL AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON IN KALK BAY AND ST JAMES

As you are aware, Kalk Bay and St James were again inundated by many thousands of visitors over the past holiday season. However, thanks to many months of planning and preparation, the City, SAPS, the harbour authority and Municipal and EPW cleansing teams combined and co-ordinated activities to ensure that our residents and our many, many visitors enjoyed one of the safest and most enjoyable holiday periods ever! The SRA has received many comments from residents and visitors confirming this, including from a prominent local business owner that this was the safest and most orderly holiday period he has experienced in 16 years.

Highlights of the activities that ensured this success include:

- SAPS Muizenberg operated two Venue Operational Centres (VOCs), one in Kalk Bay and one in Muizenberg. These were manned and foot patrols operated from them on a daily basis from 09h00 to 18h00 for the entire holiday period from 16 December to 6 January. Overtime deployment included all the public holidays during this period. SAPS presence was bolstered by the call up of reservists and extra deployment from the Muizenberg cluster which also helped to increase SAPS visibility very significantly. SAPS worked closely with other law enforcement agencies. Their activities very greatly contributed to increased safety and orderly conduct during this period.
- The City's Law Enforcement team provided about 10 officers who were active at the harbour beach entrances and throughout St James and Kalk Bay every day from 15 December to 15 January from 06h00, before the daily crowds of visitors arrived, until 19h00. They also had two lifeguards of their Marine unit on duty at the harbour during this period, supported by two lifeguards from the Sport and Recreation Department, to ensure that no drownings took place. Key successes of this active deployment include the following:
  - An illegal firearm was confiscated and an arrest made.
  - About 400 units of alcohol were confiscated under the relevant City by-laws.
  - No fires were allowed on the beaches. This, combined with the prohibition on alcohol, helped to regulate the number of people visiting the beach.
  - Patrols were also made to other beaches to ensure compliance.
  - No drownings took place from the beaches.
- The Harbour Master and his staff and the dedicated team of 26 Expanded Public Works Program (EPW) workers provided the following invaluable services:
  - The EPW team worked on a 24 hour rotation from 6am every day. They controlled access to the harbour, conducted security patrols in the harbour and helped to keep the harbour and the harbour beach clean.
  - The night team patrolled the harbour and beach to ensure that no illegal overnight camping took place.
  - The EPW team started cleansing operations work at about 4am every day and collected about 100-150 bags of refuse every day and about 1,000 bags over the holiday season.
  - As part of a public awareness program initiated by the Harbour Master, they distributed free refuse bags to beach users for their private use.
  - The EPW team also worked with and supported Law Enforcement and SAPS in ensuring public order and access control.

- The EPW staff will continue with these operations until end March, when a new tender will be issued.
- Successful programs initiated by the revitalized Kalk Bay business community include:
  - A program to regulate the activities of informal car guards. Those who have joined the program have voluntarily signed a code of conduct not to engage in illegal activities and are issued with a red vest and identity tag. The program has the backing of the guards themselves, as well as SAPS and Law Enforcement and is making a significant contribution to making our village safer.
  - The City's Traffic and Law Enforcement depts and SAPS are also taking a very active role in ensuring that these informal guards comply with the law.
  - The banks have agreed to provide a security guard to monitor the ATMs in Kalk Bay.
  - A business Whatsapp group on security issues is operating effectively and radios have been issued to various private security guards so that they can co-ordinate their activities.
- The City's Traffic Operations team deployed a team 1 Inspector, 2 Traffic Officers and 4 part time Traffic Attendants in the St James and Kalk Bay area during the holiday season. Their activities also significantly assisted in ensuring a safe holiday season.
- The City's Solid Waste Management department ensured that refuse was collected efficiently and on time throughout the season. Their Cleansing team deployed 8 to 10 workers to St James and Kalk Bay to ensure that the Main Road and all beaches and pools other than the harbour beach were maintained in a clean and neat and tidy condition at all times. These workers operated in shifts throughout every day from early December until end January, commencing as early as 5am until as late as 22h30 at night, every night. They also operated a water tanker to wash out the subways to the beaches early every morning. What a terrific service!

All these activities not only resulted in much improved safety and law compliance and clean and safe public amenities, but were overwhelmingly cheerfully accepted by the public, who appeared to accept that these activities were intended to ensure a safe and enjoyable time for all. This in itself also contributed greatly to such a successful holiday season.

On behalf of our community, the Kalk Bay and St James SRA and the Ratepayers Association thank all authorities, public service providers and other role players for their dedication, team work and co-ordination in ensuring such a safe and enjoyable holiday season for all and look forward to working with and assisting them in the future.

