



KALK BAY ST. JAMES
Special Rating Area NPC

KALK BAY AND ST JAMES SRA

PUBLIC SAFETY STRATEGY PLAN: 2019/2024

MISSION

The mission of the SRA stated in its founding Business Plan is to preserve our SRA as an environment that is safe and well maintained to benefit of all its residents, businesses and visitors.

The core mission of the Public Safety Portfolio is to address crime in the public areas of the SRA by reducing the opportunities for crime in these public areas. The core mission is therefore to prevent crime before it happens wherever possible and to achieve this by installing “barriers” that prevent or discourage crime.

Thanks to the success of the SRA’s Public Safety strategy during the initial 5 year Business Plan from 2014 to 2019, this strategy is essentially a continuation of that strategy and has been supplemented in some important areas, principally in respect of security cameras.

CONTEXT: THE KALK BAY AND ST JAMES PUBLIC SAFETY ENVIRONMENT

External

- Area – from Carisbrooke St James to 240 Main Rd Kalk Bay on the Clovelly boundary
 - Approx. 880 rateable properties
 - Approx end to end length of 12kms

- Crime factors
 - Very variable topography
 - Drug dealers and users
 - Homeless people
 - Informal car guards
 - Mountain dwellers
 - External organized crime
 - Access to the area – limited roads/trains
 - High unemployment rate

Internal

- Financial Resources – annual budget of approx. R1,800 000
- Non Profit company
- Management Structure – Board of Directors assisted by a Manager
- Public Safety Portfolio – 3 Directors
- Public Safety contractor that provides foot patrollers to patrol the SRA
- Alliances – SAPS, City of CT, Harbour Authorities, PRASA, SANParks, Ratepayers Association, other SRAs and neighbourhood watches

SWOT ANALYSIS

The Public Safety strategy is based on the following analysis of the SRA’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats:

Key Weaknesses

- The constraints of a small budget (R1.8 million in 2019/2020) that needs to service a large geographic area.
- The absence of a police station in the SRA. This results in the SRA being a lower order “on call” priority for our official SAPS station in Muizenberg and consequently reduces the effectiveness of local crime prevention measures.
- Inertia of majority of residents (but see comment below on strengths)

Key Threats

- The very substantial increase of visitors to the SRA particularly over week-ends and holiday periods has resulted in:
 - the SRA being regarded by criminals and others (e.g. street children) as a “honeypot” of easy pickings and financial gain; and
 - A proliferation of unregulated car guards

- Increase in vagrancy and mountain dwellers.

Key Strengths and Opportunities:

- Resources (contracted manpower and assured income from ratepayers) of the SRA
- Commitment of the SRA management and Ratepayers Association
- Community spirit of many residents and businesses. This is not a contradiction of the weakness referred to above. It is a growing strength that has resulted in many significant private public safety initiatives as well as other initiatives (e.g. Lever Street Park and other garden areas).
- Good working relationships with SAPS, City Council Law Enforcement and Social Development , SA National Parks and other public safety services.
- Limited road access. This strength limits the road entry and access points to the SRA and improves the effectiveness of licence plate recognition security cameras.

STRATEGY

The SRA's core public safety strategy is based on the importance of foot patrols, supplemented and enhanced in various ways, including by:

- Strategically placed security cameras, provided they are used in conjunction with "on the ground" patrollers
- Involvement of the SRA's Social Development portfolio and City and Provincial Social Development officers
- Close working relationship with SAPS, Law Enforcement, and SA National Parks, and local neighbourhood watches and the Kalk Bay Business Association
- The SRA's Whatsapp group that constantly monitors suspicious behavior and whose members call in for support by the SRA's Public Safety contractor and/or SAPS and or City Law Enforcement

Foot Patrols

The SRA's public safety contractor is committed to providing the following public safety services:

- Three trained patrollers with a supervisor to patrol the SRA on foot by day and night operating 12 hour shifts for 24 hours on every day of the year.
- These patrollers are backed by a dedicated patrol vehicle and a special response team, as well as a mountain observation unit.
- Patrollers are equipped with two way radios and cell phones linked to an operation centre.
- These patrollers are required to record their presence at all 72 electronic stations throughout the SRA at least four times per every 24 hour period. During the period 2015 to 2019 the number of visits per day averaged about 7 per day and only a small number of stations were visited fewer than 4 times per day.
- The foot patrollers are periodically deployed to various crime "hot spots" as the need arises, including to local schools at arrival and departure times, the St James/Muizenberg walk way during early daylight hours in summer etc.

The effectiveness of the public safety contractor and its foot patrollers are enhanced by a number of measures including the following, which measures will continue:

- Close liaison and working relationships with SAPS, City Law Enforcement, the Kalk Bay Business Association, security guards employed privately by businesses and local residents, and the SRA's Whatsapp group
- Close liaison and exchange of information with the SRA's Social Development team.
- Monthly bonus incentives for patrollers based on their level of performance
- Smart uniforms.

The routine operations of the foot patrols to be supplemented, depending on budget constraints, by the following:

- More frequent use of under-cover security officers to identify the sources of crime in the SRA.
- Placement and monitoring of a limited number of security cameras in strategic positions.
- The use of a mobile security camera when focusing on a hot spot.
- Employ a Rent-a-cop from City Council, if the funding can be found, to work in conjunction with SRA patrollers. The advantage of such an officer is that he is able to issue tickets and enforce By-Laws whereas the SRA's patrollers cannot do so.

Security Cameras

The secondary base strategy is the use of a number of security cameras, depending on cost, provided they are used in a strategic manner and in conjunction with “on the ground” personnel presence.

As at the commencement of this Business Plan on 1 July 2019, the SRA has acquired 8 security cameras. These are in operation in strategic locations throughout the SRA together with a system to collect the images and display them on the SRA’s Wi-Fi system and on the SRA’s dedicated, password protected, internet site.

It is hoped that private property owners will contribute further security cameras for use by the SRA. The system is able to monitor up to 40 cameras.

The system developed by the SRA is designed to enable camera images to be viewed by volunteers on their own computers or tablets or smartphones, even in the comfort of their own homes, rather than in the inconvenience of a control room. This is an exciting innovation that enable users of the system to monitor crime in our area in a much more convenient and effective manner and will also complement the activities of the SRA sponsored WhatsApp group. As at June 2019 over 50 residents throughout the SRA have volunteered their services on a roster basis throughout the day and night.

A major obstacle to successful implementation of this surveillance system is the generally poor quality of internet reception in our SRA. The SRA has arranged with an independent contractor to offer its widely accessible wi-fi based service to residents and businesses as the most robust system for dependable internet access in our SRA. It is anticipated that this service will be widely supported.

The above strategy will not succeed on a sustainable basis unless it is supported by a wide range of activities involving the entire community, most importantly by constantly reporting crime or suspicious behavior direct to law enforcement agencies.