



Minutes of Somerset West CPF Public meeting held at 19H00 on Tuesday 18th April, 2017 at the Somerset West Library Hall.

1. WELCOME

Mr Smith welcomed Col. Williams, Col Fleischman, fellow CPF members and Mr Poole.

2. OPENING PRAYER

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Mrs Esau.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Mr Smith complimented the police for doing such a good job and said that they are the only barrier between civil society and chaos. He said he had the fortune to distribute Easter Eggs to the children of Sir Lowry's Pass and Lourentia Park. He complimented Paardevlei Block Watch and Victoria Park NW on getting the accreditation at DOCS. Mr Smith said that he was extremely concerned about the negative comments about the SAPS on facebook. He asked the audience to tell these people that they have no idea about what they are talking about. She said that you can't tell anyone not to open a case, but that it consumed a lot of SAPS time to open and investigate cases.

After Col Williams' report

Mr Smith commented and thanked the Colonel for working through the night for the past 2 weeks to conquer the crime surge, which we had during March. He also said that people must be careful and sure about what they put on whatsapp and facebook, as incorrect information could lead to possible litigation. He said that children today are not disciplined at school, and that parents should do this at home. He also appealed to NW's to create safe houses for children to go to in their areas.

4. REPORT BY COLONEL WILLIAMS

Col. Williams said that she was not leaving the SAPS and said she would remain at Somerset West. With respect to the crime situation, she said that compared to other areas, Somerset West SAPS are not doing too badly. She said that 80% of cases of Assault Common were withdrawn the next day. She thanked the NW's for assisting them. She said that the railway line was a hotspot. She said that there was a slight increase in residential burglaries.

Shoplifting has increased by 83%, but generally speaking, these cases were not committed by people who did not have money, as when arrested they tended to have plenty of money on their person. She said that 3 people had recently been arrested for drunken driving offences in 2012. This was due to the backlog at forensics which has now been reduced. The standing committee on police had decided that SAPS must concentrate on 17 priority crimes and that the station was working harder and smarter to do this. The hotspot areas over the last 2 weeks were Bridgewater, Longdown Estate, Rastakamp, the Triangle, CBD and Heldervue. She said that a special operation was put into place to break the pattern, where they worked from 17H00 until 05H00 for 2 weeks. She appealed to the audience and NW's to identify young men and women working on the street by letting the SAPS know, so that they can try and help them in changing them from these habits. She said that they had managed to get a prostitute and 2 drug pedlars into rehabilitation centres. She mentioned a new law, where if infrastructure to more than 10 households or businesses is destroyed, the criminals will face extremely heavy penalties, and that 3 criminals had recently been sentenced under this law.

5. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr Moffatt questioned if statistics could be issued regularly. Col Williams replied that the station may not issue the information and that the Police minister had said that they will be issued quarterly. The station could only give percentage increases or decreases. There was further discussion on this matter.

Mr van Minnen asked what the modus operandi for burglaries was for a break ins which were pointed out by a young lady that had been arrested. The Colonel replied that it was by removing window panes and that in some cases the children of the victims were involved and their parents knew, but did not report this as they did not want the children to be arrested. She further elaborated on the way the burglars operated. She said that they are using DNA testing when possible as it is more accurate and quicker than finger prints.

Ms Anelia Marais asked the Colonel if there was any way of helping a young man on the streets. The Colonel said that she should accompany him to Social Development.

Mr Leppan asked if someone was picked up to be taken to the Night Shelter, were they checked to see if they were in fact criminals. The Colonel said that they were checked and in some cases had to go to Immigration to get information.

Mr Peck announced that there would be a meeting of all role players in the Street People discussion, at the Life Church on Tuesday 25th April.

Mrs Finger asked how people would know about a safe house. Mr Smith said a flag or something. Mr Peck said it shouldn't be called a safe house. Mr Smith said that it should be a place wher kids can go to report and get help. Mr Smith suggested the name "Tannie se Plek"

6. The meeting closed at 20H10