



# Sundowner Residents Association

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## **Sundowner Residents Association Communique - November 2016**

### **Background to the formation of the SRA**

The Sundowner Residents Association (thereafter referred to as the “SRA”) was formed in 1996 by concerned residents following a surge in incidents of crime in Sundowner, which unfortunately had resulted in the death of a resident, during this time. The focus of the SRA has always been that of striving to ensure a crime free suburb.

### **Main pillar of low crime in Sundowner is proactive security patrols**

The key to Sundowner being characterised by low crime rate, is that of proactive patrolling, as opposed to the traditional armed response method. The SRA committee therefore goes through a rigorous process of selecting service providers who contractually commit to proactive patrols and are operationally geared to serve us effectively in this regard. Proactive patrols are indispensable to maintaining a crime-free Sundowner or at the least, ensuring that crime rates are as low as possible.

#### **1. Security update:**

The SRA boomed area has for most of 2016, had very few major house break-ins or major crime incidents reported and this is attributable to the proactive partnership that exists between the SRA and our service provider, Londoloza Protection Group. The ongoing vigilance of residents has also been a major factor too, and as we head into the festive season, residents are encouraged to be more vigilant and take extra precautions to ensure their households are not easy targets by opportunistic criminal elements.

The current contract for Londoloza is due for renewal/review and we are pleased to inform the residents that contract renewal discussions are in progress with our current service provider. At the last AGM the SRA Committee, committed to ensuring that the contract review for security is done in a competitive manner. We therefore solicited competitive quotes from other credible service providers during this contract renewal process to ensure we are getting the best security services which are also affordable, given the SRA’s financial status and also effective.

## **Initiatives currently under way**

### **2. Application to Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) for traffic calming measures**

The SRA has been working tirelessly with several City of Johannesburg authorities such as the JMPD, JRA and the SRA Committee is pleased to inform residents that the application to JRA for traffic calming measures on major traffic entry nodes into Sundowner, namely Taurus Road, Apollo Avenue, Denne Street, has been submitted to JRA for their review and approval. Through the various engagements that the Committee has had with the several authorities within the City of Johannesburg, we are positive that our application will be reviewed in good light and expect a positive outcome in due course.

### **3. Renewal application to JRA to retain booms/restricted access for Sundowner**

The submission for our suburb to keep the booms for another 2 years as required by the JRA processes, has been done by the SRA, working with the specialist attorney firm that the SRA has worked on all other previous renewals and feedback is expected in due course. The final submission to a review panel, made up of JRA, JMPD and SAPS representatives, took place on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and the SRA had two Committee members in attendance together with the firm of attorneys.

### **4. Sundowner Park rehabilitation**

During 2015, the Tinnefeld family led an initiative to stem the erosion of the river and minimise dam siltation, unfortunately rain storms were so strong and diluted most of these good efforts. There are community led initiatives currently underway to revive this project and we encourage residents to offer their support to this initiative.

### **5. Membership recruitment drive**

Currently only less than 60% of the active households contribute financially to the SRA. This state is putting a serious strain on the finances of the SRA as security costs are sure to keep going up. We therefore urge every resident to encourage their neighbours to come forth and contribute towards the financial up-keep of the SRA. The SRA Committee is currently looking at various initiatives aimed at getting non-contributing residents on board. Increased membership will give us financial stability to allow the SRA to reduce the current monthly contributions, from the current R990 for standalone houses to a significantly lower amount. Our target is to have at least 80% of the 550 standalone households contributing and for all complexes to be contributing members of the SRA. Only through increased membership will the SRA maintain a sound financial footing, be able to fund proactive security patrols, which are key to maintain the current low crime status and be able to support other

initiatives such as rehabilitating the Sundowner dam, refurbishment of the palisade fencing, CCTV cameras etc. The administrative office of the SRA is contactable on +27 11 795 2105 for residents to obtain forms that need to be completed to join the SRA.

**6. Closed Circuit TV cameras installations in all key positions within streets of Sundowner.**

It is a bold medium-to-long term ambition of the SRA to have CCTV in all key positions (cover all streets) of our suburb to allow any suspicious criminal activity to be identified quickly and have targeted response. The usage of CCTV cameras to provide surveillance in combating crime is well documented in many suburbs of this country. This approach together with proactive security patrols and general residents' alertness has been shown to be effective in keeping criminal elements out of residential areas.

**7. Grass Cutting resumes in November 2016**

It's spring season and with the weather warming up the grass is starting to grow again. Army Ants, who are our current service provider for this activity, will therefore commence with the grass cutting in the whole boomed area from November 2016 onwards.

**8. Refurbishment of palisade fencing**

Our palisade fencing throughout the suburb is in urgent need of refurbishment, such as re-painting and reinforcing due to regular wear and tear from weather elements. The SRA Committee is looking at how we can do this in a phased approach, given our limited funds.

**9. Renewal of signboards at the entrances into Sundowner**

Our signboards that can be found at the 3 main entrances, namely Taurus Road, Denne Street and Apollo Avenue, are in dire need of refurbishment such as painting. This will be undertaken in the next few weeks, timelines to be determined largely by availability of financial resources.

## 10. **Communication**

We realise the importance of proactive communication with all key stakeholders, particularly Sundowner residents. Besides the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is held in May of each year and is a key platform for the Committee to provide comprehensive feedback to residents on SRA financials, new projects, etc, from now on, the SRA Committee will endeavour to keep residents updated with activities and projects through communication updates, such as this one. This will be in addition to the monthly SRA Committee Meeting Minutes and action items, which are posted on the SRA website on an ongoing basis.

To improve communication, we hereby remind residents of the following contact details

SRA Admin office - contact person is Anne Koppenaar: +27 11 795 2105

SRA Committee chair – contact person is Tahana: +27 82 447 2286

### **Know your Committee**

The team, whose details are listed below, make up the SRA Committee. Among other things, the Committee is responsible for managing affairs of the SRA such as finances, managing security matters within the boomed area, grass cutting, paying service providers for work done to the SRA, collaborating with municipal authorities. These duties are carried out on behalf of the residents by the Committee members on a voluntary basis.

#### **SRA Committee members:**

(US) Ulrike Schöttler	Committee Member
(AK) Anne Koppenaar	Security/ Admin
(MK) Mark Klinkert	Visitor

Mark has been a resident of Sundowner and previously chaired the Committee, however, he has moved out of Sundowner in the interim and will surely return soon, to live in our great suburb.

(BA) Baffuor Ababio	Committee Member
(DS) Dirk Schöttler	Committee Member
(PW) Pat Woods	Committee Member
(CC) Chester Connolly	Committee Member
(TN) Tahana Ndlovu	Chairperson

Londoloza Control room: 0861 56 6365

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<sup>1</sup> Errors and omissions excepted