

## **SPCID ANNUAL REPORT 2023 FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER**

The Sea Point City Improvement District (SPCID) reports for another year in its activity along Main and Regent Roads – Sea Point’s prime commercial strip.

The SPCID was established, as are other CIDs elsewhere across the City, to provide beneficial top-up services – safety, security and cleansing – in this case in this significant part of the Atlantic Seaboard.

2023 has been a year of intense activity in the area. This is evident from the numerous building sites seen here. Two major developments opened towards the end of last year and numerous other, generally mixed-use, developments are underway or planned. These represent significant investment in the area and proof from them of the potential for Sea Point. Already there has been a dramatic increase in residential property in the SPCID area and this will only increase as the new developments are completed. This is also likely to assist in adding further prosperity for the retail enterprises in the SPCID area. It is good to see the vibrancy which exists here now after the hiatus of COVID especially within the hospitality sector. New enterprises are setting up adding to their belief in Sea Point’s future with one of the latest being Starbucks to open its doors. This is to be welcomed and reflects an ongoing confidence in the area although it is appreciated that construction work brings with it challenges such as noise and disruption.

Another improvement in the area included the upgrading of Queen’s Circle at the end of Regent Road which included planting new foliage in the flower beds and replacing the stonework and pavement.

The SPCID operates in an area of considerable change. The service provided needs to ensure that it can reflect this and meet the demands expected of it. Last year the SPCID revamped its team and vehicles providing a new look in the community. We continued to provide on-going training for the development of our teams to help them carry out their duties even more effectively.

Safety and Security is the crux of their work, 24/7. The teams on duty are the visible presence of SPCID. They do not work alone but provide support to the other agencies such as those from the City of Cape Town such as Law Enforcement and Traffic and from the main crime-fighting agency, the SAPS. Regular operations involving these services are carried out. The CID also funds two ‘rent-a-cops’ from Law Enforcement to patrol its area addressing by-law infringements. We need to pay tribute to our partners in helping to keep our streets safe and secure for those who live, work or visit here.

As part of the new plan introduced last year one vehicle from the rebranded SRG (Security Response Group) private security company patrols the CID area as additional support. We welcome their contribution and we continually strive to ensure this service assists in effectively meeting the demands of our area especially at busy times which need extra resources. The plan for the upcoming Season is to swap some of the day patrols for nighttime to provide visibility and support at some of the busiest times.

Keeping the area clean is the other strand of the SPCID work. Teams are on duty every day and collect approximately 17,81 tons of rubbish each month. Without their assistance it is hard to imagine what the streets would look like! One other aspect of this work is to keep the storm water drains free flowing with regular cleaning. The benefit of this was seen during the recent wet winter and numerous storms – not once was there an issue of flooding along Main or Regent Roads.

Heather Tager – Chief Operations Officer said: ‘It is important to remember that the work we do is to supplement that from the other agencies. To be successful we all need to work effectively together providing support in tackling the challenges we face. Our teams do make an important impact whether it is from the security patrols or the daily cleansing teams. I am convinced that we do make a difference which is reflected in those who are investing in the area.

‘I do want to pay tribute to our teams for their commitment to the service they provide. This was particularly evident in August during the taxi strike when staff continued to check-in for work often doing extended shifts. The management of these teams should be thanked for providing the necessary means for the staff to come into work.’

The SPCID area, along with the rest of the Atlantic Seaboard, and elsewhere, is not without its challenges. A few issues need mentioning – such as homelessness and child begging. These are of a particular concern for residents and visitors alike. The SPCID has a dedicated Field Officer – Pedro Bosch. He should be thanked for the contribution he makes often going out of his way to assist those wanting to get off the streets or providing them with vital help in that journey whether it is reuniting them with family, obtaining essential ID papers or organising medical attention. Assisting in solving this problem and returning dignity to those on the streets, as well as giving reassurance to residents' concerns, can only happen through coordinated actions from numerous agencies. In this regard regular operations take place especially in the early morning hours to engage directly with those on the streets to try and assist with their needs.

Child begging has been a continuing issue throughout the year. The SPCID has engaged with other agencies to try and return the children to their homes. Sadly, being on the streets is often seen by them as being more attractive than back at home. It is also very disappointing to report that essential support from the Provincial Department of Social Development has been sorely lacking in helping to address this issue.

In addition, noisy car activity, especially in the early morning when some nightlife is ending is too often a problem causing disturbance to residents.

Jacques Weber – SPCID Chair mentioned the benefits of the security monitoring by the team. He said: 'The SPCID continues to monitor the Licence Plate Recognition (LPR) network across the wider area which continues to grow. Between three and four million vehicles are tracked on average each month and the system, along with supporting overview cameras, is a vital tool in crime solving helping to provide evidence in tracking down the perpetrators of crime. This project has been a passion of mine now for many years and it regularly proves its worth.'

The SPCID area is the hub of Sea Point. That means it is very busy bringing in workers, visitors and residents going about their various activities. Driving behaviour is often lower than ideal and there is a need to carry out checks on these activities. We thank the Transport Enforcement Unit (TEU) for the operations they carry here understanding that this isn't the only area which needs them to assist.

Regent Road is now a vibrant hub with businesses catering for a wide range of needs – banks, restaurants, superstores, and specialist shops abound. This has led to the establishment of the Regent Road Steering Committee which has brought businesses together for mutual benefit. Another Open Day Event took place in June when Regent Road was closed to traffic and stores brought out their wares for attendees to purchase. Along with various forms of entertainment the day proved to be a great success and well-attended from across the City. It is hoped that more Open Days can be arranged if the necessary sponsorship can be found.

Jacques Weber concluded: 'The whole purpose of the SPCID is to contribute in making the area safer and cleaner for all who reside, work or visit. In this regard it is there to assist in creating an environment in which businesses can thrive attracting residents and visitors alike to their outlets. The ongoing development is evidence that there is a long-term belief in the area and the SPCID believes its contribution assists in creating this environment. It will continue to carry out its activities which have proven so successful in the recent past in helping to reinforce this outcome.'

END

20/10/2023