



1. **ITEM NUMBER: 19SUB16/08/24**

2. **SUBJECT / ISIHLOKO / ONDERWERP:**

QUESTION TABLED FROM THE FLOOR: FAR SOUTH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

UMBUZO OTHEYILWE PHAKATHI: FAR SOUTH AMAGOSA ONYANZELO LOMTHETHO

VRAAG VANAF DIE VLOER: FAR SOUTH WETSTOEPASSINGSBEAMPTES

3. **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this item is to give members of the public or organisation(s) an opportunity to address the subcouncil on matters pertaining to service delivery within Subcouncil 19's area of jurisdiction.

The "question from the floor" must be submitted in writing to the subcouncil manager at least 9 working days before the date of the meeting at which it is to be discussed.

ANNEXURES:

ANNEXURE A QUESTION TABLED FROM THE FLOOR
ANNEXURE B MOTIVATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS



SOUTH PENINSULA SUBCOUNCIL (19)

QUESTIONS TABLED FROM THE FLOOR:

At Subcouncil meetings, organizations and the general public are welcome to raise a maximum of 2 issues affecting the South Peninsula Subcouncil area of jurisdiction.

You will be given the opportunity to address the Subcouncil for a maximum of three (3) minutes per issue.

Please hand in the completed form to the secretariat ± 9 days before the meeting.

MEETING HELD ON26-August 2024.....(insert meeting date)

NAME	Bas Zuidberg
ORGANISATION	FSPCF
CONTACT DETAILS	
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<u>ISSUE/TOPIC (1)</u>	
<p>FSPCF requests that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That there is a response from the authorities to our query “What happened to the 11 LE officers assigned to the Far South Fish Hoek Beach depot in 2023?” 2. Our request for additional permanent LE is added to Sub-Council 19’s Agenda as a matter of priority and that it remains on the agenda until we have the necessary and desired outcome 3. That this request is taken to the relevant authorities 4. That an information session is arranged with Law Enforcement and Interested and Affected Parties to understand various ramifications around the boundaries of Law Enforcement within Area West, the approach taken to staffing supply and demand and what we as civics can do to assist in the provision of this important service <p>See enclosed letter (Annexure B) for a detailed motivation for the questions above.</p>	



15 August 2024

Attention: The Sub-council Manager

Desiree Mentor: desiree.mentor@capetown.gov.za

Cc: felicity.purchase@capetown.gov.za ; patricia.francke@capetown.gov.za ; simon.Liell-cock@cape-town.gov.za

Dear Ms Mentor

**RE: 1. What happened to the 11 Law Enforcement officers allocated to the Far South in September of 2023?
2. Additional Law Enforcement required permanently for the Far South Region**

There was great fanfare in September 2023 when, especially in light of the FSPCF's letter of 20 August 2023 to Councilor Kuhl, which requested that 12 Law Enforcement Officers be permanently assigned to the Far South, 11 much-needed Law Enforcement officers were allocated to the region.

Our emphasis was on permanently assigned officers. However, almost a year later, we learn that we are back to square one, with only 2 remaining Law Enforcement officers assigned to the Fish Hoek Beach Depot to cover the whole of the Far South.

Our call was heard – but now the turnaround

On 21 February 2023 at a meeting with Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis, the Sunnydale Ratepayers Association highlighted the increase of lawlessness in the Far South and expressed concern at the lack of Law Enforcement. The Mayor took note of the situation and immediately emailed Alderman JP Smith requesting an expanded deployment of Law Enforcement to deal with the infringements and an enquiry around the establishment of a Safety and Security Hub continuing next door to the Kommetjie Road Fire Station (erf 17775), Sunnydale.

The FSPCF saw the 2023 allocation of the 11 Law Enforcement officers as the City heeding our, others and the Mayor's call, to address the need of adequate Law Enforcement for Far South communities. What happened to these 11 officers? What happened to the protection of the Far South region's citizens and tourists?

Our area is left vulnerable once again. The Far South residents and businesses pay rates and taxes and it is only fair and reasonable to expect an adequate contingent of permanent Law Enforcement officers for our protection and for the enforcement of by-laws.

Crime

We reiterate that residential areas and businesses in the Far South have various priorities and differing views on certain matters. However, on the subject of **Safety and Security** we stand together on what we consider a top priority.

Safety and security issues in some areas of the Far South have reached new levels, with residents and visitors from all neighbourhoods and business nodes being robbed in broad daylight. Extortion and intimidation are the order of the day in Masiphumelele as well as an ever-increasing amount of gang related crime and activity. Ocean View continues to be impacted by gangsterism and crime.

Illegal discharging of firearms in the residential area of Masiphumelele continues. This is a serious problem which seemingly goes unreported.

Current resources are insufficient

The statistics on crime in the Far South are under reported. Many residents feel it a waste of time, with residents from Masiphumelele and Ocean View fearful of intimidation and reprisals for doing so. In short, there is a lot more crime taking place than Law Enforcement and SAPS are aware of.

Typically, in order to flourish, society needs laws, communities need to abide by the laws, and the laws need policing. Unfortunately, effective policing in our region is lacking with lawlessness on the increase and with criminals and gangs controlling and intimidating some Far South areas. This is having a negative impact on the morale of communities and a negative impact on informal and formal businesses, tourism and the environment.

Presently, as per our local councillors, we have 2 Law Enforcement officers stationed at Fish Hoek Beach Depot, with sporadic back-up of Law Enforcement from Muizenberg. The result is that the Fish Hoek Law Enforcement Depot is ludicrously under equipped to deal with the issues faced in the sprawling Far South region, and this can do nothing for the morale of these officers.

Clarity around the boundaries and allocations of Law Enforcement resources within area West would be helpful, as would insights into the approach taken to staffing and supply and demand. Is there anything civics could do to make Law Enforcement's lives easier in the provision of these essential services?

12 permanent officers and a base are required

The opinion of the FSPCF, as written to the then Sub-council Chair, Aimee Kuhl, on 20 August 2023, remains unchanged. We believe that a minimum of 12 PERMANENTLY assigned Law Enforcement officers is needed at the Fish Hoek Beach Depot to enable 4 on-duty officers per shift to deal with the current volume of crime and to police by-laws.

There is support for an additional Law Enforcement depot on erf 17775, next to the Kommetjie Road Fire Station, Sunnysdale. A vision of a **Safety and Security Hub** has garnered support from residents, our councillors and City personnel alike, and is also noted as a "Potential area for Public Facility" in the Southern District SDF 2022. This would place Law Enforcement in a central position to more effectively deal with crime in Masiphumelele and place Law Enforcement geographically closer to Ocean View and Kommetjie.

There is also the "Broken Window Effect" to consider – placing adequate Law Enforcement in the region to police by-laws such as littering, illegal dumping, land occupation, illegal amplification of sound, illegal fires, bin picking, graffiti and other petty crimes, has the positive knock-on effect of reducing the more serious crimes.

Pro-active approach to stave off further crime increase

The Far South is a unique region, rich in natural beauty, which attracts tourism. It has mostly law-abiding citizens who contribute to the economy and to society. We would like to keep it this way, but without effective policing, the area will slowly degenerate – something all wish to prevent.

A pro-active approach in our region is necessary: deploy sufficient Law Enforcement permanently to the area to successfully reduce crime, before it becomes uncontrollable, as we witness in other regions. While we realize that crime in the Far South is not as bad as in other areas of Cape Town, we are of the opinion that with this pro-active and measured approach crime can be controlled and reduced. Waiting until crime has spiraled out of control will require significantly more resources. Prevention, as the saying goes, is better than the cure.

In short

This is an urgent appeal for the allocation of a minimum of 12 Law Enforcement officers to be PERMANENTLY assigned to the Far South, and to make provisions towards establishing a Law Enforcement depot on erf 17775, Sunnydale, next door to the Kommetjie Road Fire Station.

The FSPCF's request to Sub-council 19

As safety is a constitutional right and we feel that the protection of Far South residents and businesses is not being adequately met, the FSPCF requests that:

1. That there is a response from the authorities to our query "What happened to the 11 LE officers assigned to the Far South Fish Hoek Beach depot in 2023?"
2. Our request for additional permanent LE is added to Sub-Council 19's Agenda as a matter of priority and that it remains on the agenda until we have the necessary and desired outcome
3. That this request is taken to the relevant authorities
4. That an information session is arranged with Law Enforcement and Interested and Affected Parties to understand various ramifications around the boundaries of Law Enforcement within Area West, the approach taken to staffing supply and demand and what we as civics can do to assist in the provision of this important service

Yours sincerely,



Bas Zuidberg

Chairman FSPCF

The Far South Peninsula Community Forum is the joint voice of civic, community and environmental member organizations in the Far South Peninsula

Clovelly, Fish Hoek, Imhoff's Gift, Kommetjie, Misty Cliffs, Noordhoek, Ocean View, Scarborough, Simon's Town, Smitswinkel Bay, Sunnydale