

PENNINGTON CRIME WATCH
Strategic Plan 2015 - 2016

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About Pennington Crime Watch:

Pennington Crime Watch is a non-profit community based organisation which aims to improve the quality of life within our neighbourhood by minimizing preventable crime, promoting closer community ties and creating a safer community.

In December 2014 and January 2015 the increase of burglaries and attacks on a holiday maker and resident has made us Pennington residents sit up and take notice of the prevalence and impact of crime in our community. At the January CPF meeting it was decided that a Neighbourhood watch was the way forward. A request for Volunteers from the attendees was made, to set up the new structure. In this way, there would be more people on the streets, creating greater visibility, with more eyes and ears on the ground and this would help to push the criminal element out of our area.

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Vision, Mission and Values

Our Strategic Vision is:

- To help maintain and build a safe and secure community

Our Strategic Mission

- To encourage people to participate with and support Pennington Crime Watch and the SAPS in the prevention of crime and the promotion of community safety to ensure a safe and secure Pennington community.

Our Values

- To work as a consolidated team with all stakeholders & communities to reduce crime
- All interactions are conducted with integrity and common respect
- We pride ourselves on being a progressive and proactive organisation
- All activities are aligned to build a stronger sense of community in Pennington

Current Situation

Pennington has seen a significant increase in crime in the last year. With regular house burglaries and murder in December and continued crime activities in January 15

The Key Drivers of Crime

- A combination of South Africa's armed struggle, violent subcultures and significant level of gang activity in surrounding neighbourhoods.
- Inequality, poverty, unemployment, social exclusion and marginalization.
- Vulnerability of young people linked to inadequate child rearing and poor parental control.
- High level of drug abuse.

Inequality, poverty, unemployment, inadequate child rearing and drug abuse is only going to get worse in the short to medium term. Hence the outlook for a reduction in overall crime in Pennington is not predicted.

Our Objectives are:

- To foster and enhance the partnership between police and our community and thereby improve the safety, security and quality of life for all Pennington Residents.
- To formulate strategies and policies in order to achieve the following objectives:
 - a) To minimize the incidence of preventable crime.
 - b) To deter criminal activity by increasing the probability of apprehension.
 - c) To increase the reporting of crime and suspicious behavior.
 - d) To improve personal and household security through education programs.
 - e) Develop a cohesive community to support clean up and revitalisation programs
 - f) Identify geographical boundaries and vulnerable access and exit points.
 - g)

Program:

Our focus over the period of this Strategic Plan will be: Bridging Gaps, Education, Support, Awareness, Fostering Partnerships and Empowering our Community (BE SAFE) with the following goals:

B Bridging Gaps

Encourage cross cultural and age demographic participation in the PCW program.

E Education

Offer professional development and training to enhance knowledge, skills and reputation of those working in the Pennington Crime Watch framework. Working closely with the CPF, SAPS, Pennington Crime Watch and Security companies will provide invaluable information and learning.

S Support

Support the PCW through provision of information and resources. A ream of paper, an offer to distribute flyers or perhaps even being a nosey neighbour all helps.

A Awareness

Develop communication strategies to raise community awareness of crime prevention and thus creating a safer community.

F Foster Partnerships

Develop partnerships to sustain the viability of the program in Pennington.

E Empower the Community

Building a safer community through community empowerment and community engagement.

The **BE SAFE** program is to be integrated and mutually supportive of our goals and objectives.

5.1 Bridging Gaps

Our existing volunteer base will be expanded to include a broader cultural and age demographic which should allow us to:

- Build and expand capacity of our volunteer base.
- Engage younger people to participate in PCW
- Establish a greater skills base within the program.
- Encourage exchange of ideas between younger and older people.
- Develop strategies incorporating young people thinking about and contributing to community safety.
- Design strategies addressing volunteerism.

5.2 Education

Our current forums and feedback meetings were not well attended and not too highly regarded within the community. Evaluation of our program structure should allow us to improve service delivery by:

- Developing programs to assist PCW leaders in high performance management.
- Expanding leadership development throughout the PCW network -succession planning
- Raising professionalism and confidence within the PCW structures
- Developing an induction and training plan for new patrollers
- Quarterly new patrollers afternoon, how to use a radio, what's expected etc.
- Compile a safety and security newsletter focusing on home and business safety tips

5.3 Support

- Improve SAPS, Penningtons morale via a quarterly reward and recognition program "officer and shift of the quarter" clear and agreed criteria need to be compiled and agreed.
- Support the other local Neighbourhood watches.

These projects may require additional funding.

5.4 Awareness

Community awareness surrounding crime prevention and safety is paramount to creating a safer community. Awareness will be raised by:

- Promoting PCW.
- Create and grow a cell network communication- street or block groups.
- Crime statistics register to monitor increases and coordinate activities.
- Develop a comprehensive email distribution list for monthly newsletter distribution.
- Increased awareness and use of the <http://.Pennington.za.org> website
- Publications targeting benefits of PCW and community engagement. The Mid South Coast Mail and Rising Sun.
- The use of social media Facebook and twitter sites.
- PCW patrol vehicle magnetic decals and removable lights
- PCW volunteers reflective patrol jackets.
- Developing a CCTV Camera network for Pennington in strategic locations.

5.5 Fostering Partnerships

PCW need to attend the monthly CPF meetings and receive an update of Crime to focus and coordinate activities.

PCW, PRRA and Conservancy to co-ordinate common interests within the Pennington area.

Between PCW, Security companies and other supporting associations.

We need to incorporate these in to our patroller network

Build stronger relationships with other Local Neighbourhood watches.

5.6 Empowering the Community

An Empowered community is capable of taking ownership and influencing strategies thus creating safer environments. This will be achieved through:

- Engaging our community to be involved with PCW.
- Educating our community through developmental forums and media.
- By developing local strategies to address local issues within the context of the PCW program.
- Maximizing retention of existing volunteers.
- Recognising efforts and achievements within PCW. Celebrating success.

Project Plan and Costing (All costs on the draft plan are estimates)

Project

Costing

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|
| 1. PCW volunteer reflective jackets | | R 2000 |
| 2. Purchase patroller radios | | R 9600(optional) |
| 3. 5 sets of vehicle magnetic decals | | R 2000 |
| 4. 5 Patroller magnetic lights | | R 2000 |
| 5. Print 2000 PCW pamphlets | | R 1500 |
| 6. PCW tear drop banners for meetings | x3 | R 3000 (or partially sponsored) |
| 7. Pennington Camera Network | | R ?????? |

Funding

Local Businesses sponsorship of new Pennington Crime Watch Signs

Community donations for immediate essential equipment.

In association with Skys the Limit , hold fund raising events.

Targets For the next 2015

1. Set up comprehensive cell communication network groups with reporting lines.
2. Set up volunteer patrol teams and training.
3. Raise sufficient funds for essential equipment and signage.
4. Community safety awareness tips and programs.

Conclusion:

This Strategic Plan outlines the direction to be taken by Pennington Crime Watch over the next 2 years. The community needs a program offering voluntary participation capable of delivering strategies and programs of action which support the direction of the SAPS thereby creating a safer Pennington. It is important that Pennington Crime Watch remain vibrant, viable and community focused now and into the future, therefore ensuring a safer community for all residents.

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