



PARKMORE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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Dear Fellow Resident

We have all invested in Parkmore. We need to protect the investment and we need to protect those who live with us.

I do not mean to be alarmist but Parkmore is not safe as we would like it. We had 17 house break-ins last month alone. Given there are approximately 1200 residences in Parkmore this means that 17% of homes will be broken into over the course of the year.

There is, however, one perception we need to correct. Parkmore is safer than most neighbouring suburbs. We know this as we attend SAPS regional crime meetings. The relative safety of Parkmore is due to in large part to the effort of a handful of dedicated people who through the Parkmore Community Association (PCA) have negotiated a collective service level agreement with Protea Coin, hired a private investigator, instituted a radio network that connects Protea Coin ARO's, Callguard, property guards, pre-primary, primary and nursery schools and selected others, and manage weekly meetings with the security firms, the police and others to record and analyse the crime patterns.

You can only get so far by fortifying your own house with high walls, burglar bars, alarms and monitored CCTV surveillance. Despite my sophisticated security I personally have had my two young kids tied up by armed robbers. I have realised that collectively we have to act to make the community safe.

I have chosen to volunteer time to make Parkmore a safer and better place for all of us. We all have busy lives – work, spouses, kids, chores, hobbies, etc – and it is difficult to volunteer time to the community. I am not asking you to volunteer time (although the extra help is welcome). All I am asking is that you switch from your current security provider to the PCA/Protea Coin service. It takes one call to Chris van Zyl on 082 649 4785 and he will take care of changing the radio alarm unit for free, provide you with a cancellation letter for your current service provider, and give you free armed response for the duration of your notice period up to a period of 3 months. The contribution to PCA/Protea Coin is R430 per month. The monthly contribution to Top, we believe, would be ±R455.

The benefit of the PCA/Protea Coin arrangement is that the fees paid by you go into a dedicated PCA bank account and the funds are transferred at month-end to Protea Coin provided they adhere to the service level agreement. The service level agreement enforces a level of service across a range of topics. Importantly it means we currently have two patrol cars dedicated to Parkmore and we monitor these through satellite tracking. Please note that the more residents that sign up, the more cars we will have patrolling. The Protea Coin response time is superior to other security providers who are not required to keep dedicated cars in Parkmore. Recently I heard of an incident where a response car from another well known security provider came from all the way from Westcliffe. The reaction officer got lost and the response time was in excess of 15 minutes. The Protea Coin response is quicker not only because of the dedicated patrols but also because of the superior technology which links your alarm radio unit directly to the response vehicles.

With a dedicated security provider for Parkmore we are able to institute pro-active measures to combat crime. The co-ordinated management of crime intelligence at the Wednesday meetings, the private investigation and the patrols enable us to significantly combat crime. We have had a successful trial period with a private investigator and have started to build a network of information. However, unless a greater number of people join the PCA/Protea Coin initiative we will not be able to continue to afford the private investigation or other initiatives. Most good ideas require funding and this is no exception.

I need your community participation to protect my family and you need mine to protect yours. I hope my effort to write this letter will encourage you to sign-up with the PCA/Protea Coin security initiative. Signs from other security companies represent a fragmentation of our unified community armour.

Please take up the call to action and convince your neighbours and friends to also join Protea Coin. It is the first simple step to community protection and is all that I am asking of you.

Kind regards

Neil Pryce
PCA Chairman