



COMMUNITY POLICING - SECURITY

*Let's clear the air with all the previous community forums and security initiatives ...
This PCA Committee is not responsible for the past. We are accountable now and for the future*

My wife and I were sitting enjoying a light meal at Fratelli's on Saturday morning and, next minute, a black youth sprinted past the door with a Spar employee hot in pursuit. He had stolen some chocolate bars and did get away with the crime.

Last week on 702 radio station, there was a question about the only posthumous Oscar awarded to Peter Finch for his amazing performance in the film "Broadcast". Those of you may have seen this movie will remember at a crucial point Peter sticks his head out of his New York apartment window high above the busy streets and shouts "I am not going to take this anymore" referring to the life condition in which he lived. Then all the other New York residents started shouting the same "I am not going to take this anymore".

At the PCA Community 29 January meeting, Lance Quiding briefly described the many previous initiatives done (refer Notes of Meeting on www.parkmore.org.za "Day-to-Day"). In responding to resident questions, we need to go back some years ...

BOOMED GATES IN PARKMORE

Around 1996 the residents of Parkmore came together to work at boom-closing off the suburb. Many committed residents put money into the fund. The project collapsed as there was no agreement amongst the "east and the west". *Those funds have gone - please accept that this 2009 PCA is not responsible for that project.* The City of Johannesburg Council just will not approve street closures for a long time into the future.

SAS

2-3 years ago, during PCA Chairman, Quenton de Kock's term, extraordinary effort went into negotiations with SAS management to bring the PCA and SAS "community policing" in Parkmore. A very productive working relationship both at director and patrolmen level developed. The PCA also worked closely with SAS to substantially sign up residents. The process was really starting to function to the benefit of Parkmore residents. Then just at the moment when signatures were to go onto paper, Top Security Company bought SAS.

TOP

Immediately following the acquisition, the PCA tried repeatedly to approach Top management to find out what were their intentions. No formal response was ever received. It seemed to be a case of "go away, we are not working with the community"

There are still residents who say "I am not dealing with the PCA because of what they did to SAS/Top" Please ask Top management on Lilian Ave what happened if you can not accept the true story.

COIN

The PCA went back to the tender process, and after careful consideration, choose ProteaCoin. An agreement was signed whereby Coin provides two manned vehicles patrolling the suburb 24/7, and with the support of the PCA started signing up residents to the PCA-COIN Community Policing Agreement. With every 200 signed up households, we will get another vehicle.

PCA - COIN

There is one real big difference with the Coin-PCA agreement. When you sign with Coin/PCA, the money is paid into a special bank account in the Parkmore Community Association's name. The PCA holds the bargaining power which means YOU have the bargaining power. (Not an individual contract with a security provider).

The PCA-COIN agreement provides a pro-active community based crime prevention project. We must **stop crime happening**, not judge the security service by how quickly their vehicles react to a criminal incident.

The PCA-Coin agreement for private space (your home) and public space (the streets, etc) is an INCLUSIVE contract. Not to sign with the PCA is not what this project is about. More sign-ups equals more vehicles. Sandton Police Station CPF (crime prevention forum) January 2009 minutes emphasis that a single, accountable security company in a suburb should be the community focus.

The PCA is actively managing the Parkmore-Coin relationship detail. We meet every week at operations level and every six weeks with the directors. The PCA will ensure you receive outstanding service .

The PCA met with ProteaCoin director and management earlier this month. Minutes are available recording what was discussed. The PCA is confident that Coin will perform going forward.

It's time residents got over all previous grievances, we must combat crime using today's systems.

Parkmore, let us stick our heads out the windows and shout "I'm not going to take it anymore"