

# Business Fighting Crime

In partnership with the Pietermaritzburg Chamber of Business

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## BFC CHAIRMANS REPORT 2011

Fellow Chamber members,

I was appointed as Chairperson halfway through the year, following in the footsteps of Andrew Layman and before him, Dem Kambouris the year before.

An extremely difficult act to follow, I can assure you, although I have had a stint as Chairperson three years ago.

The knowledge, that I had an excellent Management Committee behind me, made the Job a lot less daunting. Well done and thank you.

You certainly did Business Fighting Crime proud; giving up your free time to support this worthy organisation. The accolades of this organisation are almost legionary and well known to us all over the years

### SPONSORS

To our active sponsors, a very big thank you. The total amount received for the year was R70 460.00 (129 710.00) This amount is much more if we take in consideration, the donations in kind:

- ✦ The Witness that always gives us free advertising space
- ✦ All the Committee members who give up their valuable time to run the meetings
- ✦ PSG Asset Management for the no charge on our Investments

I apologise for not mentioning others that we have not made a note of in the past year.

Without your finances, Pietermaritzburg will be a very much less safer place to live in. It is satisfying to know that your money is well spent and every cent donated, puts a criminal in jail or rehabilitates the poor soul. We need more members to assist with donations and my urgent plea to you is to please assist. Remember we can give you an Income Tax Exemption letter as we are Section 18A approved.

The road ahead for the new Chairperson is going to be an onerous one as our members are more and more threatened with all sorts of crime. From Hijacking to Electronic Fraud. We at BFC are trying to address it all. We are succeeding in some cases :

Our Activities were as follows:

### NON FERROUS FORUM

Role players that attend the Non-Ferrous meetings monthly are as follows .:

- SAPS – MtRise; Loop St; Alex, Estcourt, Ladysmith and all the others in and around PMBurg
- ESKOM

- TELKOM
- TRANSNET
- RECYCLING INDUSTRY ( The Scrap yards )
- MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY (Notably Hulamin)
- NPA
- DEPT. OF TRADE & INDUSTRY
- CUSTOMS & EXERCISE
- SARS
- BUSINESS AGAINST CRIME
- AGRICULTURE

These monthly Forums are very well attended and the endless battle against cable theft seems to be slow down at least. With the help of Safe City SMS and Lucas' expertise, we have a system whereby all role players get informed instantly of any theft reported.

#### CLUSTER CRIME COMBATING FORUM MEETING (CCCF)

These meetings are attended where possible and report backs and requests are dealt with amicably. We thank Captain Mays and Col Budhram for keeping us in the loop and also for the rest of the SAPS staff that let us attend these meetings. A very good cooperation exists and we thank General Maharaj for her assistance over the years. It is also here that we discover needs that the SAPS cannot assist with and where we often, in kind and in cash, assist to make combating crime easier and more efficient.

#### BANKING ACTION TASK GROUP

These meetings are still regularly attended with most of the Banks represented and the Cash in Transit companies, Shopping Centres as well as Home affairs. The Police also make an appearance and inform us about safe banking and auto ATM crime. It does make a difference, even if we only succeed in the Banks communicating with each other. Here again, we have the SMS system going to warn each other of unsavoury characters lurking around ATM's and Banking Halls.

#### SAFE CITY

As you all know, the backbone of crime prevention in Pietermaritzburg and the Board of volunteers from members of the Business Fighting Crime assisting in the management with our Manager Lucas Holtzhausen and staff.

We will ask our Chairperson of Safe City , Zinhle Sokhela to give you a brief report on Safe City.

#### FUTURE PROJECTS

We are constantly trying to assist in combating crime in any way possible.

The future projects at hand at this stage are:

- ✚ A business conversation on Cybercrime - The underground economy. A Breakfast to be held and guest speaker Craig Rosewarne from Deloitte.
- ✚ Assisting in developing and expanding the safe city project further.

- ✚ A repeat of our White Collar Crime Seminar.
- ✚ A course on Fraud prevention by the Department of Justice, Pretoria and sponsored by the Danish Government.
- ✚ TRAFFIC CONTROL:

My pet project and a project where we have to get the Traffic Department and the municipality deeply involved, is the control of traffic in our city. You do not have to be a financial guru to work out how much money has not been going into the coffers of the municipality due to a lack of parking meters.

A simple calculation tells us that since 2000, our City lost R41m in parking fees that would've been collected if we had parking meters. Ladies and Gentlemen, that is only for our four main streets, and calculated on a four day week, at ONLY R2.00 per hour, not even taking Saturday mornings in consideration.

Uncontrolled traffic with no parking ends up in chaos and this again leads to crime. Chaos breeds crime. We need the meter maids and traffic police visible in the streets. This in turn gives the Car Guards an income.

During the year we assisted , amongst other , :

In financing electric fence control for the SAPS Horse unit

Donating a laptop for the quick identification of criminals in place of a photo album

Donating a laptop to the Vehicle No plate recognition traffic team to assist in the smooth control of arrests with outstanding warrants, stolen vehicles and unlicensed vehicles.

Finance the eye testing and glasses for the Safe City monitor controllers. I believe if they can see the monitors better they will be able to recognise crime better. (although I have not seen an increase in arrests due to the wearing of better spectacles.)

Lastly , I want to thank the staff of PCB specially Marié and Ranji for assisting in the secretarial and administration of the smooth running of Business Fighting Crime.

To my team, I thank you for your camaraderie and cooperation in volunteering every time you are needed.

KOOS VORSTER  
CHAIRPERSON