



Dear Savoy and Waverley Resident

CRIME

Our 114 day period of contact free crime has come to an abrupt end with **THREE CONTACT CRIMES** reported in our area between 12 and 18 March, one of which involved residents of the area.

We reported soon after it happened the **home invasion in Campbell Street on Tuesday, 18 March 2008 at approximately 15:00**, in which three black males driving a white *bakkie* invaded the home of a resident. Access to that section of Campbell Street is controlled by an electric gate which was out of operation at the time. It is unclear whether the victims (a mother and daughter) were followed home or whether the criminals had sourced and targeted the home and were waiting for the arrival of the victims at the house. There is a building site next door. SWAP was alerted by the gardener who heard screams emanating from the house and pressed the Armed Response provider panic button but had not received a response. The panic button was attached to a lanyard with the **086 18 000 18** number printed on it, which he then phoned. SWAP was deployed by the ICCC and responded within minutes. The SWAP Tactical Response Officers, who approached the house on foot, saw one of the criminals loading a DVD player into the victim's vehicle in the driveway. He attempted unsuccessfully to reverse the vehicle into one of the TRO's (who rolled out of the way) and then alighted from the vehicle and opened fire at the SWAP TRO. Two TRO's returned fire, wounding the criminal in both legs. One of the SWAP TRO's entered the house to ensure there were no further attackers on site and to assist the victims inside. A second criminal emerged from the vehicle and in attempting to make a getaway also opened fire. The second attacker was pursued by the other two TRO's who returned fire, seriously wounding him as well. Both attackers are in hospital under police custody. A Colt 45, registered to one of the criminals, was recovered at the scene. The ICCC also deployed SAPS and medical response to the scene. Armed Response arrived too. The third criminal had left the scene in the *bakkie* before the arrival of SWAP and SAPS are investigating his whereabouts. It is believed that the criminals are part of a syndicate which has also perpetrated home invasions in other areas.

One of the victims was severely beaten by the criminals during the course of the home invasion and sustained injuries to her head and face. She is in hospital undergoing treatment and we wish her well for a speedy and complete recovery.

On **Friday, 14 March 2008 outside a building site in Burn Street, Waverley, at approximately 11:40**, the builder's driver was **robbed at gunpoint** of R22 000 in cash

by three black males driving a green Audi A4. It appears that the driver had first visited a bank in Bramley to draw money for weekly wages before driving to the site in Burn Street. He was followed from the bank and as he stopped at the site, the Audi stopped behind him. The three attackers alighted from their vehicle, and one of them smashed the driver's window with the butt of a firearm. The gun was put to the driver's head, resulting in a visible swelling, while the other attackers searched him until they found the money. They then left the scene in the Audi in the direction of Corlett Drive. No shots were fired.

On **Tuesday, 11 March 2008 at approximately 11:35, at 555 Louis Botha Avenue, Savoy**, an off duty policeman was **robbed at gunpoint** of approximately R5 000 by four black males driving a green Audi A4 (the same as in the incident above). It appears that the victim was followed from a bank in Bramley (the same as in the incident above) to the service station where he intended having repairs effected to his vehicle when the attack happened. No shots were fired.

We have deliberately included details of these attacks, all of which are still under investigation, as important issues flow:

- Whilst the **TRO's are trained not to discharge their weapons unless absolutely necessary, there are circumstances when they need to do so**. If anyone had any doubts on the effectiveness of the CAP initiative, the high calibre of the TRO's or the ability of the TRO's to protect the community, this manner in which the response to the Campbell Street incident was handled should dispel those.
- A domestic worker, wearing a lanyard with the **ICCC's 086 18 000 18** number, activated the SWAP response. We have repeatedly stressed the importance of domestic workers, children and any other household members having the 086 18 000 18 number easily available, and being made aware of the importance of phoning the number to report any suspicious people, vehicles or objects in addition to actual incidents. **MORE CALLS = LESS CRIME**. Only 77 calls were received by the ICCC in the week, well below the target of 100 calls each week.
- An attack took place in a street which is usually closed to general access, but when the access control was inoperative. We have repeatedly warned of the need to create a two minute security bubble when driving to your home or business destination and to be **ALERT and AWARE** and on the lookout for anything suspicious, which must then be called in immediately to the ICCC. We have repeatedly emphasised the need to **report groups of two or more males on foot or in vehicles**. Each incident involved a group of armed black males using vehicles.
- We have also repeatedly warned of "**follow home**" incidents from banks, shopping centres and the airport, and crimes being sourced and targeted via building sites.
- All three attacks took place between 10:00 and 16:00. **Crime happens mostly during these hours and not mostly at night as is the common perception**.
- A **high level of violence is associated with crime**. Criminals have weapons (often legally LICENSED!) and have no compunction in using them.

- Do NOT use banks on Louis Botha Avenue. **Do NOT draw large sums of cash on a Friday.** Vary your route back from the bank and keep a close lookout for following vehicles.
- Crime does increase over the Easter weekend with many homes vacant. If you intend being away from home during the Easter weekend, **please ensure that your physical security at home is adequate, that your alarm and / or electric fence are in good working order, and that any people remaining on your property know the 086 18 000 18 number.**

CID

We have received an additional **15 YES** votes and **ONE NO** vote since the formal meeting held on 11 March 2008. Our YES votes are close to 65% in number and we need only another 10 votes to achieve or target of 66%. If you have not yet voted, please do so now. **Call 082 419 7927 to get your Unique Voting Form** if you are not already in possession of one. Voting closes on 31 March 2008.

FUNDING

While almost 65% of the 788 rateable properties (housing near to 3 000 residents) have voted in favour of the CID, **only 337 residents are contributing to SWAP on a monthly basis.** We find it extremely difficult to understand the logic of voting YES without making a monthly contribution, if not in the amount of the proposed monthly CID levy, then at least for a lesser amount. We managed to raise additional funding from large donations sufficient to cover or expenses for March, however, **debit orders and internet transfers still comprise less than 50% of SWAP's monthly overhead.** PLEASE make a contribution if you are not already doing so. A Pledge Form is attached.

GENERAL

Our thanks **and appreciation to those residents who responded to our request for a "1st birthday" present for the SWAP team.** We received donations of watches, wallets, golf shirts and pens which will be handed over to the team members next week.

Crime is a plague. It must be met had on with conviction and commitment. While we are disappointed that our area was the subject of three incidents in the week, especially after almost four months being contact crime free, we are very pleased that the impact of these crimes was minimised and two attackers neutralised as a result of CAP's proactive, anti-crime initiative. We are very proud of the calm, professional and decisive manner in which our TRO's responded when required. In the words of George Orwell as displayed on a small poster at SWAP HQ:

"We sleep safe in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm."

Keeping your suburbs safe and secure

Your SWAP / SWRA Committees

(SWAP is affiliated to the Community Active Protection initiative)

FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, BY THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

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