

Brief Overview: CPF & Neighbourhood Watch: Powers & Functions

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INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

- Functions of CPF's
- Objects of CPF's: Responsibility of SAPS
- CPF Annual Community Safety Plan
- Neighbourhood Watches: Example of the Western Cape
- Powers & functions of CPF's & NW's: Concluding Remarks



**Interim
Constitution
of the
Republic
of
South Africa,
1993,
Section 221(2) -
Read with SA
Police Service
Act
1995,
Section 22**

- Promotion of accountability of SAPS to local communities (and cooperation of communities with the Police)
- Monitoring of effectiveness & efficiency of SAPS
- Advising the SAPS about local policing priorities
- Evaluation of the provision of visible policing services to communities, e.g:
 - Siting & staffing of police stations;
 - Reception & processing of complaints;
 - Patrolling of residential & business areas
- Requesting enquiries into policing matters in the community concerned

SA
Police Service
Act
1995,
Section 18

SAPS shall in order to achieve the objects of the Police [Section 205(3) of the Constitution]:

I.e. crime prevention; crime combating; crime investigation; enforcing the law; protecting & securing the inhabitants of the Republic & their property; etc,

Liaise with communities through CPF's, with a view to:

- Establish and maintain a **partnership**;
- Promote **communication** between SAPS & community;
- Promote **cooperation** between SAPS & community;
- Improve **rendering of police services** to community;
- Improve **transparency** in the SAPS & **accountability** to community; &
- Promote **joint identification of problems and finding solutions**

SA Police Service
Interim
Regulations
for
Community
Police Forums
2001
Regulation 8

Reg.8(1):

CPF must, after consultation with Station Commissioner, develop a **community safety plan** for each financial year, and submit to the relevant community policing board.

Reg.8(2):

Community safety plan must set out *inter alia*:

- Action steps & programmes/projects towards achieving CPF objects set out in section 18
- How such action steps/programmes/projects will be funded
- How such action steps/programmes/projects will promote the achievement of the section 18 objects of the CPF

Western Cape Community Safety Act, 2013

- Good attempt at regulating the functioning of neighbourhood watches (NW's)
- Provides for support and accreditation to NW's (in section 6):
 - Provides inter alia for accreditation of NW's by Prov Minister
 - Prescribes the process for accreditation and involvement of the Police
 - Prov Minister will consider:
 - Whether NW conducts itself according to prescribed standards for membership, structures and the use of funds
 - Whether NW cooperates with CPF in the area
 - Prov Minister will issue a certificate of registration, including period of registration, area & other terms of registration
 - NW's can receive funding, training and other resources from Prov Government
 - NW's must report to Prov Minister on activities and crime concerns, etc
 - NW's must renew accreditation every 2 years.

CPF's and NW's has no policing functions, apart from citizens arrest powers provided for by section's 42 & 47 of the *Criminal Procedure Act, 1977*

CPF's have an oversight and advisory role on behalf of the community *vis-à-vis* the Police

In the absence of control mechanisms such as in the Western Cape, NW's should be linked to CPF's or Sector Forums

NW's could act as the operational arm of CPF's/SF's within their limited legal mandate, but in terms of the regulatory framework CPF's are not in themselves set up or structured to perform operational duties such as patrols

Thorough thinking and planning needs to go into the annual CPF Community Safety Plan, its funding and implementation

THANK YOU / DANKIE

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