



# GarsCom

From the community-For the community / Uit die gemeenskap-Vir die gemeenskap

**NPC**

A company incorporated in terms of section 10 of the Companies Act of 2008 (Act 71 of 2008)  
(Old Section 21)

Reg Nr 2007/012733/08 : 067-745-NPO

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2018**

### **Progress Report:**

It is a privilege to report on another good year for GarsCom. There are a few issues that kept us busy this past year...

People often ask why GarsCom only work with one service provider rather than with all of them. The reason is that the Proactive model promotes having permanent dedicated security vehicles in the area 24/7 all year round. This means that the community and one dedicated service provider work very closely together to patrol the area. Hence, we have an agreement with National Security & Fire (previously known as Chubb) that enables us to have a 24/7 operational control room that monitors 22 security cameras.

The key to our success is the close cooperation with National Security & Fire to prevent crime rather than to respond afterwards when the harm has been done. If people support other service providers in the GarsCom area, they weaken the model and complicate the process of responding to crime proactively. The decisive factor in safety is not to isolate yourself, but to be visible and make criminals feel that they are being noticed - constant patrolling is therefore a very effective way to prevent crime.

Now with National Security & Fire being under new management we are very positive because they understand and promote our vision and the model. This means that we have a unique opportunity to grow even stronger as a community and to further improve on the model.

So the real question is: Do more service providers mean more security? The answer is: No, just the opposite. In comparison with GarsCom's neighbouring areas where there are many service providers working in a reactive model, you will see that GarsCom is a much safer area with lower crime rates – this proves that the Proactive model is very effective.

Even though National Security & Fire is GarsCom's preferred service provider, GarsCom also encourages other areas to adopt the model making use of other service providers where they are in the majority. This means GarsCom promotes the model and not the company.

However, GarsCom is much more than just security, we also want to ensure that GarsCom is sustainable. Three students of the Free University in Amsterdam were invited to do their field work for their Masters' studies in GarsCom during April and May. The focus is on recycling waste and to explore the possibilities for vegetable production in GarsCom. Residents formed discussion groups to work with the students and, hopefully, to continue with the projects.

On the social side, GarsCom had a year filled with projects that involved all community members and proved to be very successful!

## **Acknowledgements:**

Many people argue there are no communities anymore in our modern world, only individuals pursuing their own goals. In GarsCom there are many individuals who contribute to the common good, each in their own unique way. These people are the active members of the GarsCom community. We would like to thank each one of these residents for their valued contribution to GarsCom:

- The dedicated and committed Directors who do not hesitate to give their time, energy and even money to promote and reach our goals.
- A big thank you to every voluntary patroller and patrol coordinator who unceasingly patrol the whole neighbourhood, whether it be winter or the festive season.
- Thank you to every GarsCom resident that does his / her bit.
- The WhatsApp street admins and residents of all the WhatsApp groups in GarsCom.
- We thank our project managers for making GarsCom events and activities so successful.
- Facebook numbers are growing and hearty thanks are extended to our Facebook manager for her the creative work and dedication.
- The Bethel Chapel has become the hub for all meetings and other occasions and we thank them for always being available to GarsCom.
- Mr Reinhard van Wyk of Van Wyk & Vennote is the auditor for the GarsCom Residents Association, which he does on a pro bono basis.
- The councillors Leo Middelberg and Reyaan Uys who help with all municipal related matters.
- The new management team of National Security & Fire, Yagan Nair, Wendy Janse van Rensburg, and their team, we thank you for your dedication to GarsCom. André Becker and the whole Pretoria team for their dedication and input in GarsCom.
- Thank you to Spar Woodhill who amply provides platters for functions.
- Mr Japie and Ms Leoline Havenga of Sasol St Bernard who make space available for the GarsCom (JOC) Wendy house and the GarsCom car wash days.
- Messrs. Anthony and Dub Boshoff of Property Shop who make their boardroom available for meetings.
- Thank you to William Turner, Bertus Schoeman and the Strategic Team members for their time and hard work.
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- Cathy Coetzee, Wilna Barnard, Lydia Duvenhage and Ané and Pieter Pretorius who contribute to pay a gardener to clean the streets.
- Thank you to Ilana van der Merwe who manages the website and providing us with quality design work and a big thanks to Ian Muller from National Office who is always ready to assist with printing.
- Thank you to each National Security & Fire patrol officer and operator in the control room. Your dedicated work makes a big difference.
- A big thanks to Steven Maiers who manages and financially sponsors the GarsCom Suppliers List.
- Thanks to all who make a financial contribution to GarsCom. Every resident that contributes every month and the businesses Gerhaldo-Engen, Spar Woodhill, Sasol St Bernard, RWA brokers and National Security & Fire.
- Thanks to everybody that is involved in making a difference in these peoples' lives.

Many thanks to our Heavenly Father for His protection throughout the year and for granting us the grace of friendship. May that bond of friendship continue to bind the community of GarsCom together.

***Carol van Niekerk***

***Chairperson and initiator of GarsCom since 1998***

