

ONW CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AGM 2017

Membership

Membership is at about 122 which is similar since our last AGM. However, in the interim our membership declined to 60 with the implementation of the membership database and us finding that many of our members had moved on from Obs. Since then our membership has grown steadily each month up to present number.

We believe that this was largely due to:

- our new online database system which has streamlined the membership process;
- the monthly crime statistics report which is now only shared with our membership and our partner organizations and;
- our ongoing efforts to rebrand the ONW, making it more 'accessible' to the wider Obs community.

Mike will say more about that later, but we believe that it is through building our community and working together that we will ultimately achieve our vision for Observatory.

Crime Statistics

ONW and OBSID have been working closely together to improve the reporting and capturing of crime statistics. The spreadsheet behind this graph was developed by Frank and it has become an invaluable tool in the co-ordination of OBSID's resources and our crime fighting strategy. Thanks Frank. I'm pleased to report that although the overall crime stats are still unacceptably high we have managed to achieve an average decrease of 40% over the year.

(Graphic from Franks annual crime report)

This achievement can be attributed to the following:

1) Co-operation with other Organizations

There is a strong spirit of co-operation between the different role players and it is our aim to continue to build on these relationships for the benefit of the community. The ONW has been well represented the OBSID Public Safety meetings and the Obs CPF Sub Forum and OCA meetings. In particular, I would like to thank Hudson, Graham, Wayne and Jason for their input over the last year. You have worked hard to implement a safety plan and it is through your ongoing efforts and effective management that we are getting results. Thank you guys, you have our full support!

2) New Security Services Provider – Outer Shield

Obsid appointed Outershield as our new security provider in February this year. They have undoubtedly had a profound impact on our stats. To Leslie and his team on behalf of the community, thanks and keep up the good work!

3) Law Enforcement

Our two LE's have made a significant impact over the year and have provided our community the 'teeth' we needed to combat crime and grime more effectively. Well done and thank you.

4) License Plate Recognition (LPR) Cameras

ONW, the OCA and OBSID have been operating a trial LPR camera which has led to a number of arrests over the last year (nearly twenty). This camera feeds license plate information to the main Cape Town database which will send out notifications of any "hot" vehicles in our area.

OBSID have made allowance in their budget to roll out several more cameras across our suburb over the coming months.

5) Improved Communications

5.1 Radio Network

The radio network has become more active over the last year with Observatory Public Safety (OPS) having fully adopted it for their communications. This has also had a positive impact on the working relationship between OPS and ONW and our overall effectiveness against the criminal element.

On behalf of the ONW I would like to thank OBSID and the OCA for once again covering the cost of our ICASA radio license and some other expenses this year. I would also like to extend a special thanks to Graham for his efforts as Radio Manager during year.

5.2 Facebook

On behalf of the ONW, I would like to thank Frank for managing the Facebook page which now has 1,370 followers and is regularly updated with news and security advice.

5.3 Whatsapp Groups

I would like to thank Frank for his role in coordinating the proliferation of street WhatsApp groups into an effective communication tool for ONW and the community. We now have over 50 street groups with a combined membership of over 1,100, residents. The over-arching ONW Central WhatsApp group has become the main channel for reporting crime or suspicious activity in Observatory. I would also like to thank Olivia of A Touch of Madness for her role in growing the Obz Biz Security Group to almost 100 members. It is great to see our business forum on the rise again and working together against crime.

Appreciation

I would also like to thank all ONW members for your ongoing support in patrolling, attending meetings and doing whatever possible to make Obs a safer community.

I would also like to thank the following organizations for their ongoing support and collaboration:

City of Cape Town
OBSID
Observatory Civic Association
South African Police Service

Thanks for your time and support.

Steve Killick