The Role of Municipal Councillors in Building Safer Communities

Councillor Pocketbook

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civilian secretariat
for police service

Department:
Civilian Secretariat for Police Service
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SALGA

Inspiring service delivery

german
cooperation
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Foreword
Civilian Secretariat for Police Service

The Civilian Secretariat for Police Service (CSPS) is pleased to present this Pocket Book on Community Safety for Councillors in partnership with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the Violence and Crime Prevention Programme (VCP) implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). This Pocket Book provides councillors with an important resource for understanding the importance of pursuing holistic and integrated approaches to planning and implementing safety, crime and violence prevention interventions to enhance the delivery of high quality services at local level. It thus provides the opportunity and framework for implementing the 2016 White Paper on Safety and Security which seeks to build safe and resilient communities, and advancing the goal of ensuring the safety of all as the basis for 'human development, improved quality of life and enhanced productivity'.

This Pocket Book reinforces the critical role that cities must play in creating livable cities through providing appropriated platforms for communities to

play an active role in identifying safety challenges and developing appropriate solutions. Developing an active citizenry for sustainable safety must be underpinned by the co-creation of solutions from the ground up, with a particular focus on ensuring the inclusion of marginalised communities. Community Safety Forums (CSFs) are expected to play a leading role in this regard; creating a platform for dynamic and permanent processes for discussion and engagement that supports the co-production of ideas and solutions.

The localisation of ideas and interventions is thus a central focus of the White Paper and this Pocket Book. It highlights the central role that councillors must play in driving integrated and collaborative planning, and the development of safety strategies and plans that must find expression in the integrated development planning process.

We trust that this Pocket Book will be an important resource for councillors as you take up the challenge of building safer communities.

MR ALVIN PHUMU RAPEA
Secretary for Police Service: DDG

SALGA is pleased to present the first Pocket Book on Community Safety for Councillors developed jointly with the support of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service and the Violence and Crime Prevention Programme implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). SALGA is grateful for this partnership as we seek global partnerships and knowledge exchange for sustainable development in our communities.

As local government is the sphere of government that is closest to our communities, we are better placed to tackle most crime risk factors that prompt violence and crime within our communities, including socio-economic factors, infrastructure and urban design.

Crime Prevention and Community Safety is the cornerstone of local development. It is therefore our role as local government to strengthen and complement crime prevention strategies and implementation policies of both government and other interested role-players. This therefore, calls for our increased investment in community safety

initiatives, reflected prominently in our municipal Integrated Development Plans (IDP) and budgets.

Beyond law enforcement, this Pocket Book provides advice and resource possibilities to our members on the topic of Community Safety, offering guidance with clarified roles and responsibilities. More importantly the Pocket Book simplifies the role of local government in community safety as imagined in the National Development Plan and the White Paper on Safety and Security (2016).

Wishing you all the best as leading champions of our mission for safer communities.

MIRRIAM NKITLE LEHLOKOA
Executive Director: Community Development

1 Crime Challenges: What are the Numbers?

From the reported crime statistics over the last few years, it is evident that violence and crime has generally been on the increase and community safety is deteriorating in South Africa. According to the SAPS 2015/2016 Crime Statistics[1], reported contact crimes like murder, attempted murder and various forms of assault (including rape) are on the increase. Year-on-year there has been a 5 percent overall increase in the total number of crimes reported. The numbers are unacceptably high. A total of **18,673** murder cases were recorded. This translates to an average of 51 murders per day during the 2015/16 financial year in South Africa. South Africa is the 10th most violent country in the world, according to the latest Global Peace Index, compiled by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)[2]. The murder rate, which is a useful and reliable indicator of violence remains extremely high in South Africa in relation to other developing countries in the southern hemisphere.

1 http://www.saps.gov.za/services/crimestats.php

2 http://businesstech.co.za/news/general/126263/how-much-money-violent-crime-costs-south-africa-every-year/

Murder Rate per 100,000 in 2015

Brazil	25
South Africa	**33**
Colombia	28

Between 2011 and 2015 the murder rate reduced to around 33 killings per 100,000, halved from 67 in 2009.

The total public and private violence suppression spending in South Africa amounted to **R989 billion** in 2015. This equates to roughly R34,160 per person in the country. The global economic impact of violence across the world is over 13% of global GDP, whereas in South Africa it is 19% – the 16th highest rate in the world[3]. This concern about the high economic costs of violence was similarly confirmed by the World Health Organisation, the World Bank and the World Economic Forum.

3 http://businesstech.co.za/news/general/126263/how-much-money-violent-crime-costs-south-africa-every-year/

Recorded Cases of Murder and Attempted Murder in South Africa

	Murder	Attempted Murder

Y-axis: 25 000, 20 000, 15 000, 10 000, 5 000, -

X-axis: 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
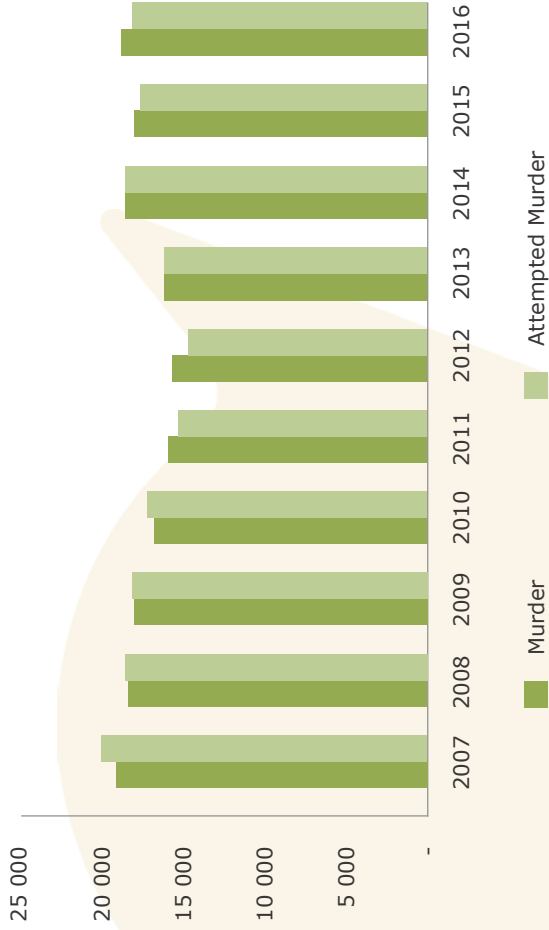
Did you know? A look at Crime Stats

i

The majority of violent crimes occur in the home and among friends, according to StatsSA. Responses therefore have to go beyond policing and require joint collaboration between law enforcement, government and civil society.

623 223 violent contact-crimes were recorded in 2015/16

- Murder (18,673)

- Attempted Murder (18,127)

- Sexual offences (51,895)

- Assault (347,891)

- Robbery (186,637)

1,707 violent contact crimes per day

51 murders per day
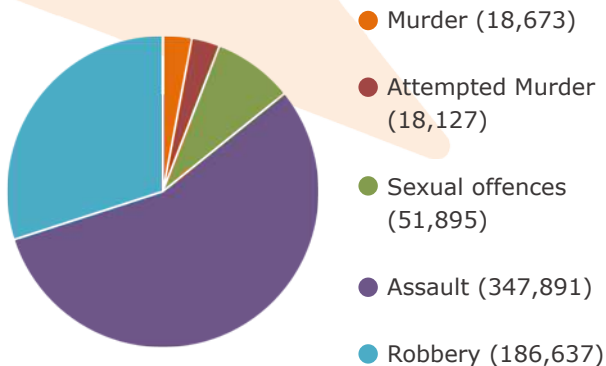
Murder rate in South Africa

33

per 100,000 citizens

5x global average

33

6

World   SA
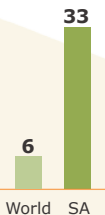
Safety perceptions in South Africa

- **41%** of people feel violent crimes have increased

- **69%** of people don't feel safe walking in their neighbourhoods after sunset

- **33%** of people avoid going to parks or public spaces

Sources: South African Police Service, Statistics South Africa, Global Peace Index

Why is Community Safety a Municipal Responsibility?

The local government responsibilities for the provision of safety and security, and crime and violence prevention are derived from the Constitution[3], national legislation and other policy frameworks. The following legislation and policies, for example, provide the legal reasons for local government's role in promoting community safety and crime prevention, and synergies and integration in planning and service delivery:

- National Development Plan (NDP), 2012
- Local Government Municipal Structures Act, 1998
- Municipal Systems Act, 2000
- National Security Strategy (NSS), 2007
- Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act (IGRFA), 2005
- Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy, 2011

- Community Safety Forums Policy, 2011
- National Crime Prevention Strategy, 1996
- White Paper on Policing, 2016
- White Paper on Safety and Security, 2016
- and the Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF), 2016.

Local government, as the primary point of contact between the state and communities, needs to be empowered with capacities and resources in order to play a stronger, more pro-active role in driving integrated, long-term localised safety responses. Most crimes and violence happen in local communities and within municipal spaces. This support requires assistance from national and provincial government in setting up the appropriate fiscal, personnel and organisational systems within local government so that municipalities can fulfil their responsibilities with regards to violence and crime prevention[4].

Community safety remains the primary concern for local communities. Community safety has an influence on how people perceive and value their neighbourhood. In particular, a low crime rate and reduced anti-social behaviour is frequently seen as precondition for a good place to live. It is for these reasons that community safety should continue to be a key programme for municipalities.

4 State of Urban Safety in South Africa Report 2016

Other Important Structures and Stakeholders in Community Safety

National Government

Provincial Government

Local Government

- Non-State Actors & Civil Society
- Communities
- Police Services
- Other National/Provincial Departments or Programmes

There are four themes pertaining to local government's role in promoting community safety that are common across all the above policies and legislative frameworks:

Theme 1

Law enforcement and the operations of the criminal justice system alone are not adequate to address high rates of crime and violence in the country.

Theme 2

Government cannot deal with crime on its own and the institutions of government (at all three spheres) need to work in partnership with civil society to reduce crime.

Theme 3

Efforts at prevention need to focus also on victims and potential victims.

Theme 4

Activities aimed at preventing crime need to also address the fear of crime.

3 Relevant Community Safety Legislation and Policies that I Need to Know as a Councillor

In addition to municipal by-laws and resolutions, some of the main legislative and policy imperatives requiring municipalities to play a key role in making communities safer are summarised below:

3.1   The Constitution (1996)

- The Constitution (Sec. 151) confers municipalities with the power to govern the local government affairs of its communities, subject to national and provincial legislation.

- The Constitution (Sec. 153) further obligates municipalities to structure and manage their administration, budgeting and planning processes to prioritise the basic needs of the community.

- Amongst the objects of local government, as defined in Section 152, are the responsibilities to promote the social and economic development of the community, as well as promote a safe and healthy environment.

3.2 National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 (2012)

Chapter: 12 – Building Safer Communities: In addition to creating an effective, responsive and professional criminal justice system, the NDP motivates for an integrated approach to building safer communities that recognises the root causes of crime and responds to its social and economic drivers.

- In regard to the above, the NDP places significant emphasis on the role of local government in understanding the safety needs of individual communities, and incorporating safety and security priorities into their integrated development plans.

3.3 The Municipal Systems Act (2000)

- The Act provides for local government to promote and undertake development in the municipality. Accordingly, the council of a municipality has a legislative duty within its administrative capacity to promote a safe and healthy municipal environment[5].

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5 Local Government: Municipal Systems Act No. 32 of 2000 and Regulations – Chapter 2(4)

- The burden is therefore on the local municipal council to promote and advocate for an environment that is safe and healthy, also dealing with all factors that give rise to crime.

- Community safety should be a priority concern for municipalities, engaging all relevant stakeholders and partners for focussed safety and crime prevention measures. Council members, in particular, Ward Councillors, should promote and advocate for safe constituencies and neighbourhoods, supporting networks, providing oversight and holding the officials to account.

3.4   The National Crime Prevention Strategy (1996)

The NCPS has the following objectives:

- The establishment of a comprehensive policy framework which will enable government to address crime in a coordinated and focused manner which draws on the resources of all government agencies, as well as civil society.

- The promotion of a shared understanding and common vision of how we, as a nation, are going to tackle crime. This vision should also inform and stimulate initiatives at provincial and local level.

- The development of a set of national programmes which serve to kick start and focus the efforts of various government departments in delivering quality service aimed at solving the problems leading to high crime levels.

- The maximisation of civil society's participation in mobilising and sustaining crime prevention initiatives.

- Creation of a dedicated and integrated crime prevention capacity which can conduct on-going research and evaluation of departmental and public campaigns as well as facilitating effective crime prevention programmes at provincial and local level.

3.5 White Paper on Safety and Security (2016)

The purpose of the revised White Paper on Safety and Security (2016) is to promote an integrated, intergovernmental, holistic approach to safety and security, and to provide substance and direction to achieving the NDP's objective of 'Building Safer Communities'. The White Paper recognises the importance of multi-stakeholder, inter-sectoral consultation and collaboration for effective and integrated service delivery at local level as an imperative for building safer communities. In particular, the White

Paper requires national and provincial government to fulfil their constitutional mandate to ensure that local government has the capacity and resources to perform its functions, specifically in creating an enabling environment for safer communities. This therefore calls for an integrated, cohesive local approach applied through coordinated local level decision-making and implementation to achieve the NDP's objectives of 'Building Safer Communities'.

The roles and responsibilities of local government in implementing the White Paper include:

Programmes and Interventions

- Co-ordinate safety, crime and violence interventions within the municipal area.
- Ensure effective enforcement of by-laws on safety, crime and violence prevention.
- Implement programmes and interventions aligned to safety, crime and violence prevention outcomes.

Budgets and Resources

- Secure funding and allocate budgets for strategy, plans, roles, programmes and interventions for safety, crime and violence prevention at local and district municipality levels.

- Align resources to objectives of safety, crime and violence prevention outcomes.
- Capacitate and resource the Municipal Directorate for Safety, Crime and Violence Prevention.

Legislation and Policy

- Align legislation (by-law) and policy to safety, crime and violence prevention outcomes.

Strategies

- Develop a local strategy and community safety plans for implementation of the White Paper and develop strategies and integrate safety, crime and violence prevention outcomes into strategic plans, performance plans, norms and standards, etc.
- Align and integrate safety, crime and violence prevention outcomes into the IDP.

Implementation Structures

- Establish an implementation structure to ensure effective implementation of the White Paper.

Intergovernmental Co-operation Systems
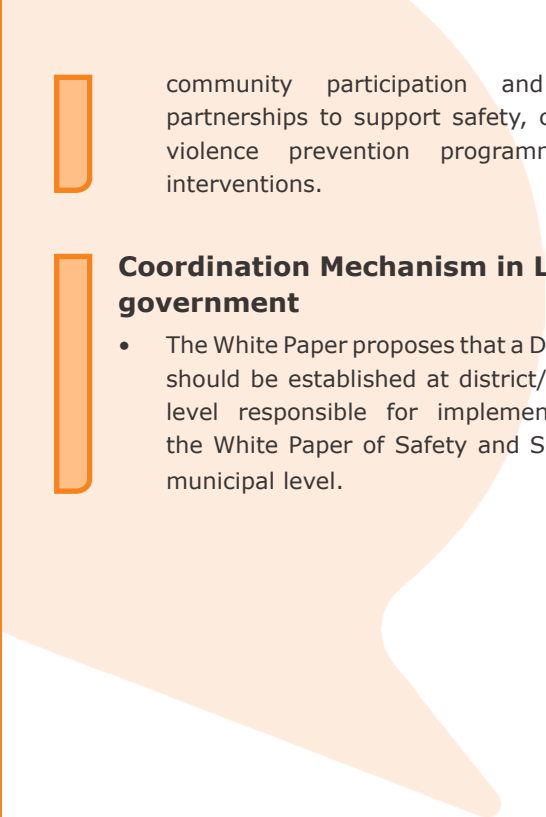
- Develop implementation protocols with other spheres of government and organs of state to facilitate implementation of the White Paper at local level.

- Contribute to setting joint safety, crime and violence priorities and interventions with other tiers of government, departments, and municipalities.

- Participate in intergovernmental forums on a national, provincial and local level and ensure that issues relating to the implementation of the White Paper on Safety and Security are discussed, consulted and put into action.

Evidence-based Assessments & Monitoring and Evaluation

- Implement the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework at local level.

Active public and Community Participation

- Establish sustainable forums for co-ordinated, collaborative and on-going

community participation and private partnerships to support safety, crime and violence prevention programmes and interventions.

Coordination Mechanism in Local government

- The White Paper proposes that a Directorate should be established at district/municipal level responsible for implementation of the White Paper of Safety and Security at municipal level.

Safety, at a community level, is often taken to be simply the absence of crime. But, practically, safety refers to an environment in which economic growth can occur; where poverty and social exclusion can be reduced; where individuals and families can live free of crime, intimidation or violence – and of the fear of crime, intimidation or violence. It is important that safety is differentiated from the much narrower concept of security, which generally refers to the immediate protection of an individual, collective or place from physical threat, and does not incorporate the social, developmental or causal aspects related to safety.

Community Safety is therefore defined as preventing, reducing and containing the social, environmental and intimidatory factors, which affect citizen's right to live without fear of crime and violence which impact upon their quality of life. It includes preventative local measures that contribute to violence and crime prevention.

The terms **"crime prevention"**, **"violence prevention"** and "safety" are often used interchangeably, but are all different. Crime Prevention is defined by the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime (2002) as: "strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crimes occurring and their potential harmful effects on individuals and societies, including fear of crime, by intervening to influence their multiple causes." It is applied specifically to efforts made by governments to reduce **crime**, enforce the law, and maintain **criminal** justice.

Crime Prevention: In order to reduce risk factors and strengthen protective factors, comprehensive policies are needed that form part of what is called an 'integrated approach' to violence prevention – in other words, a holistic strategy that depends on collaboration across many different sectors.

Levels of Violence Prevention

▶ **Primary Violence Prevention**
Measures of primary prevention aim at preventing violent behaviour/activities from occurring. The necessary measures help in informing people on how to effectively deal with potential sources of violence that surround them.

▶ **Secondary Violence Prevention**
Measures of secondary prevention address people who are strongly exposed to risk factors that encourage violence, or who have already demonstrated some violent behaviour. Such measures can focus on limiting the circumstances that favour violent behaviour (e.g. via urban planning initiatives to improve living standards, offering leisure activities for violent adolescents or providing emergency services); or they can promote the competencies of people, for example by offering counselling services that deal with conflicts within families, and increasing social cohesion.

▶ **Tertiary Violence Prevention**
Measures of tertiary prevention focus on the provision of long-term care following acts of violence and efforts to prevent relapses by young offenders. Such measures can address perpetrators, for example, focusing on their rehabilitation and effecting behaviour change while facilitating their reintegration into society; or such measures can address victims by, for example, offering trauma counselling and other health-related services.

Types of Violence Prevention

▶ **Situational Violence Prevention**
This is related to physical surroundings. It aims to reduce opportunities for violence and crime that arise from environmental factors. This is also referred to as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).

▶ **Social Violence and Crime Prevention**
This includes measures to strengthen social cohesion and reduce people's motivation to resort to violence. For example, empowering vulnerable groups (individuals, families and communities) to participate in decision-making processes and supporting them in making their own interests heard; providing life-skills training to the youth via sports or arts-based activities; or providing training for parenting skills.

▶ **Institutional Prevention**
This relates to institutions and policies strengthening good governing in the public administration. For example, training urban planners within administrations on safety-sensitive planning; strengthening structures for broad participation in local politics; or awareness raising about civic and political rights and obligations.

Violence is defined by the World Health Organization as: *"the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation"*. The broadening of scope from crime prevention to violence prevention allows a more comprehensive approach, focusing on all the risk factors for crime and violence, including, for example, alcohol and substance use.

In South Africa the following categories of crime are considered to be "serious crimes":

Contact Crime

Like murder, attempted murder, sexual offences, assault and certain kinds of robbery

Contact-related Crime

Like malicious damage to property

Property-related Crime

Like residential housebreaking

5 Understanding Violent Behaviour: What is the Ecological Approach?

Ecological **Approach:** The "ecological approach" to violence prevention is important in understanding and working towards safety at a local level. It recognises that violence results from a combination of multiple influences that can interact with each other in different ways. The ecological model locates individuals in relation to their family and community, and to the broader societal environment levels. It allows us to address the factors that put people at risk ('risk factors'), and to protect them from experiencing or perpetrating violence ('protective factors'). Prevention strategies can be used at each of these three levels to address these factors. Each level is associated with a different (often overlapping) set of risk factors.
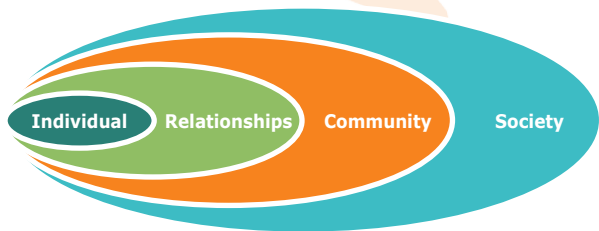
Detailed reading on the "ecological approach" is recommended and provided in the Toolkit For Participatory Safety Planning.

The Toolkit is available freely in the Learn How section of SaferSpaces (www.saferspaces.org.za). SaferSpaces is an online knowledge and networking hub for practitioners working towards violence prevention and community safety to find safety-related information, share knowledge and connect with each other.

6 Community Safety at Local Level

6.1 What is my Role as a Municipal Councillors in Championing Community Safety

The local councillor has invaluable frontline responsibility in helping to prevent and resolve potential crime and other matters of social disorder. Most crimes happen at the local level and, therefore, need a local response. Local government needs to complement the overall government efforts to reduce the socio-economic and environmental factors that influence people to engage in criminal activities. As a councillor, therefore, I need to be familiar with the needs of my local community, the work of the council and other state and non-state partners in tackling crime and violence, and creating safer communities.

The following is suggested as the key role of local councillors:[6] ▶

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6 Informed by UK Local Government Association Models and Practices on Community Safety

i. **Engager:** "eyes and ears" of local residents - working with local groups and individuals to understand and promote local needs and influence decisions. Provide constant feedback and accountability to communities on community safety programmes undertaken by the council and other government entities. Building relations between the communities and the authorities. Community Safety Forums and Community Policing Forums provide useful platforms for stakeholder engagements.

ii. **Promoter:** providing political leadership consistently, speaking up as the voice for the local community, influencing and challenging political and managerial decisions.

iii. **Mediator:** reconciling different views in the area and explaining hard decisions that have to be made by the council and other state institutions. Provide political leadership in the planning and implementation of crime prevention and community safety projects.

iv. **Political Entrepreneur:** supporting and generating social networks, engaging people in the civic and public life and promoting community action to solve problems.

The International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC) summarises the basic elements of the local authority approach of crime prevention as follows:

1. **Identification and mobilization of key partners led by local city authorities.**

2. **A rigorous safety diagnosis (audit) of local problems of urban safety and victimisation**

3. **Development of local action plans which address the causes of crime, not just its symptoms, and take into account the different needs of local communities.**

4. **Implementation and evaluation of long and short term prevention projects which target social exckusion and urban poverty, specific crimes and specific geographical areas.**

The ICPC also emphasizes the point that this is a long-term process, and requires an understanding that prevention is a normal part of local community activity and local governance.

(Shaw. M. (2003) Bulletin: The Role of Local Government in Community Safety, ICPC. Available at www.crime prevention.org)

7 Important Community Safety Structures

The following legislative structures have been set up to bring together government, civil society including business and communities to improve service delivery, particularly to address crime and to promote community safety and violence prevention:

7.1   Community Safety Forums (CSF)

- Community Safety Forums (CSF) are one of the most powerful means of engagement and participation with local communities and stakeholders and for promoting community safety. They are important drivers for change, and can provide an essential coordinating mechanism to bring together local government, other key government departments (particularly in the social cluster), community leaders and stakeholders such as schools, community groups and faith-based organisations. Emphasis is placed on developing the necessary cross-departmental synergy and alignment to fast track and improves service delivery – supporting a developmental approach to safety, crime and violence prevention.

- CSFs provide a means for sharing information and coordinating inter-disciplinary approaches to crime prevention.

- The CSF is a distinct, well defined forum which is not intended to replace or duplicate any existing structure or forum at local level. The intention of the CSF is to provide a community representative medium that serves as a coordinating structure for collaboration and integrated planning and implementation at local government level. It should also not be confused with the Community Policing Forum, a legal community structure established in terms of the South African Police Service (SAPS) Act and is mandated to facilitate community–police relations within a specific police station precinct (police station boundary).

- CSFs are designed to create a platform for coordination, integration and implementation of multi-sectoral crime prevention and community safety initiatives – aligned to national and provincial priorities.

- The establishment of CSFs is intended:

  ○ To promote the development of a community where citizens live in a safe environment and have access to high quality services at local level, through integrated and coordinated multi-agency collaboration, among organs of state and various communities.

- The MEC responsible for policing shall, in consultation with the mayor(s), establish a CSF that is broadly representative of local community structures and organs of state, to be located and operate within the Metropolitan, District and Local municipal boundaries.

- The District CSF consists of representatives from local CSFs under its jurisdiction, and provides further coordination and technical support toward ensuring functionality and integration.

- Due to its location at local level it is proposed that metropolitan, district and local municipalities assist in providing appropriate infrastructure.

- Provincial Secretariats for Police and district municipalities are also required to provide relevant assistance where necessary.

- The following minimum standards must be considered for implementing CSF's:
  - CSF must be established and aligned to district and local municipal boundaries.
  - Stakeholder representation in the CSF must be at a strategic and decision making level.
  - Municipalities must, together with the provincial departments responsible for community safety, coordinate all CSF activities and report on implementation achievements. Should any challenges arise, it must be reported and discussed at CSF level, and if no

solution is found, a report must be sent to the Provincial Department of Community Safety and the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service to facilitate intervention.

- Details on the CSF are provided under the Municipal Stakeholder Forums section of the SALGA Community Development Portfolio Councillor Manual. You can read more on the Community Safety Forum Policy: http://www.policesecretariat.gov.za/downloads/policies/community_policing.pdf.

7.2   Community Policing Forums (CPF)

- A CPF is a community structure formed by a group of people from the police and different communities who meet to discuss crime-related problems. CPF is also a way to ensure that police are accountable and provide an effective service to the communities. The community involvement helps to decide on policing priorities and provide the required external oversight on police activities.

- The power and function of CPF
  - ○ Promote cooperation and accountability of the local police to the community.
  - ○ Monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the police.
  - ○ Provide advice on local policing priorities.

Key Differences between CPFs and CSFs

Community Safety Forums (CSFs)

CSFs solely serve as *a coordinating structure for collaboration and integrated planning and implementation at local government level.*

The CSFs concept emphasises the need to ensure synergy and alignment of all government inputs and outputs in the local domain to fast track and improve service delivery whilst drawing on all available resources and achieving the commitments underlying the developmental perspective. By taking over the co-ordination of crime prevention activities, community safety forums could allow community policing to focus exclusively on police-community issues and report on successes, projects and challenges. As such, they could serve as the major conduit for community participation in community safety forums. The forums could also assist CPFs to access government resources that would previously have been beyond their reach.

Community Policing Forums (CPFs)

The CPF serves as a legal community structure established in terms of the South African Police Service Act and is mandated *to facilitate community-police relations within a specific police station boundary* and serves as the mouthpiece of the community with the police and vice versa on policing and other relevant safety issues. Members of this forum are elected during formal election processes and get its mandate from the community to execute the legal power and functions.

8 Community Safety Plans

Community safety needs to be integrated into every phase of the IDP for coherent and effective crime and violence prevention programmes to be implemented at local level. It is recommended that all municipalities should have a Community Safety Plan, linked to ward-based plans and IDPs. The Plan should be developed through a participatory planning process that takes into account the specific risk factors for violence and crime in local communities. The municipal safety plan should outline short, medium and long-term interventions that CSF members together with the municipality may implement or monitor within the overall municipal plans (IDP) and programmes. The CSF remains central in the formulation and implementation processes of the municipal community safety plan.

A useful resource for municipal safety planning processes is provided in the Toolkit for Participatory Safety Planning found on SaferSpaces (http://www.saferspaces.org.za/learn-how/entry/planning-safety-initiatives). An example of a Community Safety Plan Template can be accessed on Saferspaces (http://www.saferspaces.org.za/resources/).

9 Other Useful Tools for Crime and Violence Prevention at a Local Level

9.1 Safety Audits

"A safety audit is a systematic analysis undertaken to gain an understanding of the crime and victimization-related problems in a locality; to identify assets and resources for preventive activities; to enable priorities to be identified; and to help shape a strategy that will enable those priorities to be tackled." (European Forum for Urban safety, Guidance on Local Safety Audits: A compendium of International Practice)

Safety audits, when linked to safety plans and implementation strategies, are one of the most powerful tools available to local government to adopt a whole-community approach to crime and violence prevention, and to achieve healthy and safe communities.

9.2   An Example of a Community Safety Auditing and Planning Process

- Consultation
- Community safety diagnostic (audit)
- Prioritise safety needs
- Consultation
- Community safety plan
- Consultation
- Implementation

9.3   An Example of a Local Level Community Safety Strategy

In 2008 the Open Society Foundation for South Africa (OSF-SA), through its Criminal Justice Initiative and in partnership with the Western Cape Department of Community Safety, the Gauteng Department of Community Safety and the Eastern Cape Department of Community Safety and Liaison, embarked on a new strategy to support efforts to promote community safety that are cognisant of the need for both

immediate law enforcement and long-term crime prevention. The project bought together many of the approaches discussed above, and attempted to draw both on the lessons from local approaches adopted in South Africa up to that point, while integrating the strategy within a broader public health approach to violence prevention. The partners believe that a balanced approach, which also recognises and seeks to address the social, economic and environmental drivers of crime, provides better prospects for long-term safety. The project is premised on the notion of healthy and safe communities. The methodology was based on best practice and includes:

1. Conducting a safety audit to gain a thorough understanding of the safety problems facing the community

2. Developing safety plans to address the problems identified in the audit

3. Supporting the community safety forum, to bring together community, government stakeholders, business and others, to manage, monitor and facilitate the implementation of the plan; and to

4. Encourage robust monitoring and evaluation, in order to feed lessons and progress back in to the plan and the project more broadly.

Source: http://osf-crimeandsafetyproject.org.za/

10 **Test Your Knowledge:** What do I know about community safety in my area?

As a Councillor, do I know some of the community safety challenges in my area?

What do I know about the following:

▶ Do I have the most recent crime statistics for my area?

▶ What is being done locally to prevent and reduce all forms of crime and threats?

▶ What key projects is my municipality involved in to tackle anti-social behaviour by young people in my area?

▶ Does my municipality or other government entities have special projects in my area to protect the vulnerable groups like women, youth, disabled and aged?

▶ What key projects is my municipality involved in to tackle issues relating to drug or alcohol misuse in my area?

▶ How much do I know about crime and violence prevention partnerships and structures working arrangements in my municipality?

- ○ Do I know the membership and leadership of the CSF and CPF?
- ○ How much contact do I have with these structures and how much am I involved?
- ○ Do I know who represents my municipality on the CSF and CPF? How many times have I consulted with them about community safety concerns in my ward/area?
- ○ What channels of communication are in place to enable me to receive feedback from the CSF and CPF on its activities?
- ○ Do I have contact details of all the important stakeholders (Local Police/Crime Stop/CPF/CSF/Local Social Development/Trauma Centres)?

Reflect on and assess your responses to the questions above. How well do you feel you know community safety now?

If you would like to learn more about any of these areas, a good place to look for more information is www.saferspaces.org.za

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SaferSpaces – working together for a safer South Africa

saferspaces
working together for a safer South Africa
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SaferSpaces is an online knowledge and networking hub where practitioners working towards community safety and violence prevention in South Africa to find relevant information, share their knowledge and connect with each other.

FIND THE INFORMATION YOU NEED

UNDERSTAND
Learn more about violence prevention and safety.

BE INSPIRED
Discover projects that promote safer communities.

LEARN HOW
Find tools for planning safety initiatives.

RESOURCES
Browse safety-related publications, articles, videos and more.

BLOG
Read about safety-related insights, news and developments

EVENTS
Find out about safety-related public events across South Africa.

LET PRACTITIONERS SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE

CONNECT
Encourage practitioners in your municipality – e.g. NGOs, think tanks or your colleagues – who are actively involved in projects that prevent violence to register on SaferSpaces and share their knowledge. Why? So that others can learn from their experiences.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER FOR A SAFER SOUTH AFRICA!

www.saferspaces.org.za

@safer_spaces

www.facebook.com/saferspaces.sa

www.youtube.com/user/saferspacesSA

Newsletter: Sign up online

12 Other Resources

In addition to your municipality, the following institutions may provide important information and resources on community safety:

Institution	Link
Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR)	www.csvr.org.za
Institute for Security Studies	www.issafrica.org
People Opposing Women Abuse	www.powa.co.za
Sonke Gender Justice	www.genderjustice.org.za
Soul City	www.soulcity.org.za
SALGA	www.salga.org.za
CoGTA	www.cogta.gov.za

Gauteng Department of Community Safety	www.gautsafety.gpg.gov.za
Civilian Secretariat for Police Service	www.policesecretariat.gov.za
South African Police Service	www.saps.gov.za
Mandela Bay Development Agency	www.mbda.co.za
Eastern Cape Department of Safety and Liaison	www.safety.ecprov.gov.za
South African Cities Network	www.sacities.net
Department of Social Development	www.dsd.gov.za
National Prosecuting Authority (NPA)	www.npa.gov.za
Gun Free South Africa	www.gfsa.org.za
Crime Line	www.crimeline.co.za
Business Against Crime	www.bac.org.za