



Your UIP

"Tackling crime and grime in your precinct"

DECEMBER 2014
ISSUE 37



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE URBAN IMPROVEMENTS PRECINCTS (RF) NPC

DURBAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER'S DESK

As we draw to the end of another exciting year, it is important to reflect on the milestones and learn from the challenges that have helped us achieve so much this year. As a team, we have once again kept the CBD, NEB and SB precincts safer and cleaner.

The UIP service providers, Siyabuya Security, Enforce Security Services, Shanela Environmental Management and Cwebezela Trust continue to protect your home and work environments. The team also works hard behind the scenes with other municipal departments and stakeholders to network and negotiate on your behalf and to always put your property interests first.

We will continue to do the same going forward, and we thank you for your valuable feedback and ongoing support. For more information on the UIP, visit www.uipco.co.za or email uipco@mweb.co.za

Colin



Merry Christmas

Season Greetings and Happy Holidays to you all. Wishing you and your family a safe and joyous festive season.



A must see again this year, is the age old tradition of the Christmas lights in Dr Pixley KaSema Street. This stunning photo was taken on Saturday night, 29 November. Don't miss it!

IN THIS ISSUE

- Load Shedding - Reality or Rage: Make a choice
- Christmas Lights - Not to be missed
- Safety Tips - Your Safety is our priority
- Safety and Cleaning Reports

Due to the holidays, there will be no precinct meetings during December 2014 and January 2015.



Help the UIP reach our target of 1000 likes. Simply visit our Facebook page, like the page and stand a chance of winning a R500 shopping voucher. Tell your friends, colleagues, and family to do the same. Visit www.uipco.co.za today!

LOAD SHEDDING

In order to help Eskom keep this festive season bright and shining, use electricity smartly and conserve electricity where you can. This will not only reduce load shedding, but will keep your electricity bill low as well. Here are some basic tips to keep you safe and sane during load shedding periods, particularly during the busy festive season-

- ⚡ Know the load shedding calendar for your work and home areas and plan your life around it. Even if Eskom does not follow the planned schedule, it is better to be prepared.
- ⚡ In the city, power failure is going to have an impact on traffic lights and robots. This is simply out of your control, but a good attitude will help prevent unnecessary collisions and frustration. Remember the rule, first to arrive, first to go. Not all drivers will follow this rule, so be aware of reckless drivers.
- ⚡ No street lights, especially at night will affect visibility, so look out for road hazards such as potholes, debris and even pedestrians and drive cautiously.

continued on page 2

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☞ If possible, leave earlier or later to avoid heavy traffic periods.

☞ Many motorists will use their cell phones to contact the office or their families when they are late. Try to avoid this and rather advise them of this possibility before setting off on your trip.

☞ Arrange for a generator for your business premises, as pickpockets and shoplifters will use the opportunity to steal when it is dark.

☞ Prepare staff for load shedding periods, especially when the power goes off without notice. Many shops lose thousands of merchandise during this time, when customers walk out with unpaid goods.

☞ If possible inform customers in advance, as card machines will also be offline.

☞ Parking bays will also be affected and you are likely to get stuck at automated booms in shopping centres and parkades. Bear this in mind when out shopping.

☞ Keep temporary lighting readily available, e.g. torches, candles, etc.

☞ Keep laptops charged, so you can continue to work when there is no electricity.

☞ Ensure gas cylinders are filled for cooking or heating.

Load shedding is a reality. Let's work with Eskom until the situation is stabilised.

WHEN GOING ON A TRIP

Don't drive after consuming alcohol

Decide on a designated driver before starting your party celebrations.

Slow down

Why risk getting a speeding ticket this holiday when the roads are filled with police waiting to issue fines. Try to plan early and purchase gifts and Christmas goodies in good time.

Always wear your seat belt

Don't embark on a trip without ensuring that you and all your passengers are buckled up. It will save your lives!

Don't use your mobile phone whilst driving

If you don't have a hands free kit, pack your cell phone in your boot. It is an unnecessary distraction and, whether it is texting or looking for directions, it takes your eyes from the wheel, often with fatal consequences.

Don't be a victim of Road Rage

During the holidays, roads become overcrowded and people are rushing around. You're bound to lose your nerve and become impatient. Relax and keep your cool.



In addition to alcohol, negligent driving and distractions are major causes of road collisions during the festive season. The cell phone with texting, social networking, browsing on the internet, and inputting navigational data while driving is considered as dangerous as driving drunk. Alcohol abuse on the beaches, at parties and illegally on the streets leads to increase fighting and often ruins the celebrations associated with the holidays.

Illegal consumption of alcohol leads to various other crimes, but is not the only challenge during the festive season. Irresponsible behaviour by the public from lost children, unruly behaviour on the beaches and illegal parking to leaving vehicle windows open and hiding belongings in the sea sand in full view of prowling thieves are all acts of negligence the public repeats year after year.

Based on crime patterns from previous years, the UIP and its partners have cautioned the public to exercise the following basic tips to avoid becoming a statistic this year and to enjoy the holidays with family and friends safely and happily.



Be vigilant

When stopping at traffic lights, observe muggers posing as pedestrians, especially those walking between vehicles. Keep all valuables locked in your boot and do not leave them visible on your seats.

Obey the rules of the road

If you need to get somewhere at a certain time, set off early taking into consideration traffic, road closures, accidents, etc. Simply follow the rules of the road!

WHEN WALKING ON THE STREET

Don't wear expensive jewellery

Chains, watches, earrings, etc. are an unnecessary attraction to yourself. Opportunists are looking out for this. Wear simple, inexpensive jewellery.

Avoid taking your cell phone while walking on the street

Do not flash your cell phone while walking. If you have to take or make a call, walk into a nearby shop or store.

Keep handbags close

Avoid carrying large and expensive handbags. Rather keep them small and concealed. Ensure the opening/flap is always against you.

Know where you are going

Get directions before you set off. If you get lost, rather go into a shop or store and ask for help or look out for a uniformed officer.

Walk smart and light

Carry small amounts of cash. Stalls and traders in the city only accept cash, so keep this cash safe, especially when paying for goods. Try to use credit and debit cards where possible.

WHEN DRAWING CASH

Know your pin code

If you forget your code, don't ask strangers for help. Rather go into the bank and request assistance. Be aware of card swappers.

Observe your surroundings

Always be observant as to who is standing in the queue. Try to use an ATM that has a bank security officer stationed there.

Try not to bank alone

This applies especially when large amounts are to be banked or withdrawn. Vary your banking routine and ensure that you are not being followed.

Report crime

If you are a victim of pickpocketing or other theft, report the crime immediately to the local SAPS. Unreported crimes lead to repeat offences.

OTHER

- ✓ Store SAPS, Metro Police and other emergency numbers on your cell phone.
- ✓ Park your vehicle in designated or official parking bays where there is sufficient security or car guards.
- ✓ If you are visitor, make enquiries at Durban Tourism before setting off.
- ✓ If you are lost or need information, go into a local store or ask a uniformed UIP officer or policeman on the street.

Point SAPS: 031 367 4012
Crime Stop: 08600 10111
Flying Squad: 10111
CCTV Room: 031 361 0000

Important Contact Numbers!

SAPS
10111 (24 Hours)

Metro Police Services
031 361 0000
(24 Hours)

UIP SB Precinct Security
083 548 6225
Cleaning
083 303 4697

UIP CBD Precinct Security
031 304 9911
082 852 1204
Cleaning
073 346 7791

UIP NEB Precinct Security
031 304 9911
082 852 1204



WHEN SHOPPING

Keep bags to a minimum

Avoid carrying too many bags. It is better to leave heavy bags in the car and shop as light as possible, preferably with one hand free.

Avoid taking little children into busy areas

Try not to take kids into busy shopping areas. They often become irritable and are a distraction. It is also easy for children to get lost in crowded areas. Educate your children on what to do if they do get lost.

Be aware of your surroundings

Be alert, especially in busy shops and crowded streets where thieves and pickpockets may be operating.

Watch your handbag and wallet at all times

Do not leave handbags or wallets in your trolley while shopping. Be cautious when making payments, always keep your eye on your cash and cards.

CRIME REPORTS January to October

CBD PRECINCT (SRA): UIP/ENFORCE SECURITY SERVICES

The UIP/Enforce team made 80 arrests from January to October, which is an encouraging drop for the same period last year of 119 arrests. The team handled 752 incidents; 281 included general assistance and 260 included crime monitors assisting with removing twine from traders' stalls. This positive downward trend was 100 incidents lesser than the same period in 2013. This pattern continued for the year with no cases of serious crime reported to the UIP. There were no reports of rape and hijacking. As expected, petty crime continued, but comparative analysis to 2013 also showed a decrease in these activities as follows: shoplifting from 29 to 23, pickpocketing from 12 to 11, cell phone theft, 15 to 8 and snatching from a whopping 27 incidents to 15.

Call outs to shops also dropped drastically from 99 in 2013 to 41.

Incident rates per month were also down, with October the lowest with 63 and March the highest with 90. Other criminal activities like ATM criminals, drug offences and selling of fake goods decreased, which reflected a very positive outlook for the precinct in 2014. Congratulations to the team for a successful year.

Crime Snippets - CBD Precinct: UIP/Enforce Security Services

07/10 @ 18h15: A ring was snatched from a woman's finger by three thieves at the corner of Joe Slovo and Dr Pixley KaSema Streets. Our crime monitors intervened, but the suspects got away with the ring. Fortunately, the other rings were not stolen.

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15/10 @ 16h20: The store manager at Ackermans in Dr Pixley KaSema Street called for the assistance of a UIP/Crime Monitor after a man attempted to open an account fraudulently. The SAPS was called and the suspect arrested.

27/10 @ 14h17: Two men making a nuisance and causing a disturbance at Truworthis in Dr Pixley Kasema Street were escorted from the store by the UIP crime monitors after staff called for their assistance.

29/10 @ 07h30: A crime monitor reported that a foetus was found under a plastic bag in front of Kings Field Place, 30/32 Joe Slovo Street. SAPS and Emergency Medical Services were called to the scene.

**NEB PRECINCT (SRA) :
UIP/ENFORCE SECURITY SERVICES**

The UIP/Enforce team made 17 arrests for the period and attended to 30 incidents for the year. This precinct is a low crime area, dominated by drunks, with 16 individuals warned and released for drinking in public. No serious or petty crime was reported to the crime monitors during this period.

**Crime Snippets - NEB Precinct:
UIP/Enforce Security Services**

23/10 @ 08h30: A suspicious man loitering next to a vehicle at Hoy Park was observed by crime monitors. He eventually left the area without incident.

31/10 @ 16h41: Our crime monitors intervened during a verbal altercation between a couple at Soldiers Way outside Virgin Active. Fortunately, the matter was resolved.

**SB PRECINCT (SRA) :
UIP/SIYABUYA SECURITY**

Another busy year for the team with 7 256 incidents addressed from January to October 2014, compared to 7 885 for the same period in 2013.

Public assistance increased with the crime monitors helping 1 278 people. As with the CBD precinct, statistics dropped as follows: Drinking in public/drunken in vehicle from 517 in 2013 to 471 in 2014; public disturbance, 665 to 431 and fighting, 435 to 313. Public indecency however spiked significantly from 331 to 662 incidents, demonstrating the continuous problems of behaviour in this precinct. Loitering by prostitutes (882), glue boys (662) and general loiterers (848) are an ongoing challenge, in addition to illegal activities by vendors (207), car guards (218), and bottle sellers (158).

**Crime Snippets - SB Precinct :
UIP/Siyabuya Security**

05/10 @ 13h39: UIP/Siyabuya crime monitor caught a man after he robbed a woman of her wallet and cell phone in front of Gilroc in Gillespie Street. The goods were returned to the owner and she chose not to lay a charge.

07/10 @ 19h05: A Nigerian male, who was stabbed badly at Sandringham flats, 103 Gillespie Street, was transported to hospital in a SAPS vehicle when the ambulance failed to arrive on time, following a call from the UIP/Siyabuya crime monitors.

12/10 @ 11h56: UIP/Siyabuya Supervisor Hlatshwayo discovered a grey Chevrolet with a broken window after someone had thrown a plastic bottle filled with water through it. The matter was reported for further investigation.

31/10 @ 18h02: While on patrol, UIP/Siyabuya crime monitor Mfeka found a silver grey Mercedes Benz with a broken back window parked in front of Mt Blanc, OR Tambo. Inside the vehicle were towels and blankets, but the owner of the vehicle could not be located. He monitored the vehicle until the owner returned.

**CLEANING REPORTS
January to October**

**UIP/Cwebezela Trust
CBD Precinct (SRA)**

Litter is the key word in the city and on the beaches as we approach the Christmas and New Year holidays. The general apathy towards the use of bins is a concern and the public is reminded that bins are available throughout, so drop your litter in the bins and not on the streets or pavements! Due to the influx of holiday-makers, shops and restaurants are urged to stock more bins and liners and to exercise better waste control.

Thanks to the excellent working arrangement between Cwebezela Trust and DSW, cleaning was well coordinated for the year. Cwebezela focused again on regular street and pavement sweeping; removing of illegal stickers and posters, coping with poor waste control from traders and ensuring the two pissoires in Greenacres Passage and Monty Naicker Street were washed and sanitised. The two shift system which has been operational for the past two years has been very effective, allowing for all-round cleaning during peak litter periods.

**UIP/Shanela Environmental
Management
SB Precinct (SRA)**

The SB precinct recorded a busy year with 56 670 bags of litter collected for the period January to October 2014, compared to 54 325 in 2013. A total of 311 685kgs of waste was uplifted, with January the highest with 35 420kgs and March the lowest with 28 820kgs. The public, particularly party revellers, are asked to obey the rules and keep alcohol away from the beaches in order to enjoy a safe and clean precinct.

