

CHAIRPERSON`S REPORT






FOR THE PERIOD 31 MAY 2023 TO 30 MAY 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

It is a privilege for me to present the GarsCom annual report for the period 31st May 2023 to 30th May 2024.

GarsCom was once again committed to the vision of being a safe, friendly, involved, and open community.

2. DIRECTORS

 Chairperson	Carol van Niekerk
 Vice chair/Finance	Herklaas Meyer
 Marketing/Communication	Antoinette van der Merwe
 Environment	Phoebe Machere
 Security	Pierre du Plooy

Norma Beetzke, who acted as the financial manager for GarsCom and has been assisting the directors in financial matters since July 2022, resigned in June 2023 because they moved out of GarsCom. Bertus Schoeman agreed to act as financial manager for GarsCom from July 2023.

Antoinette van der Merwe was appointed in August 2023 as director of marketing and communications.

3. GARSCOM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (GRA)

Finance

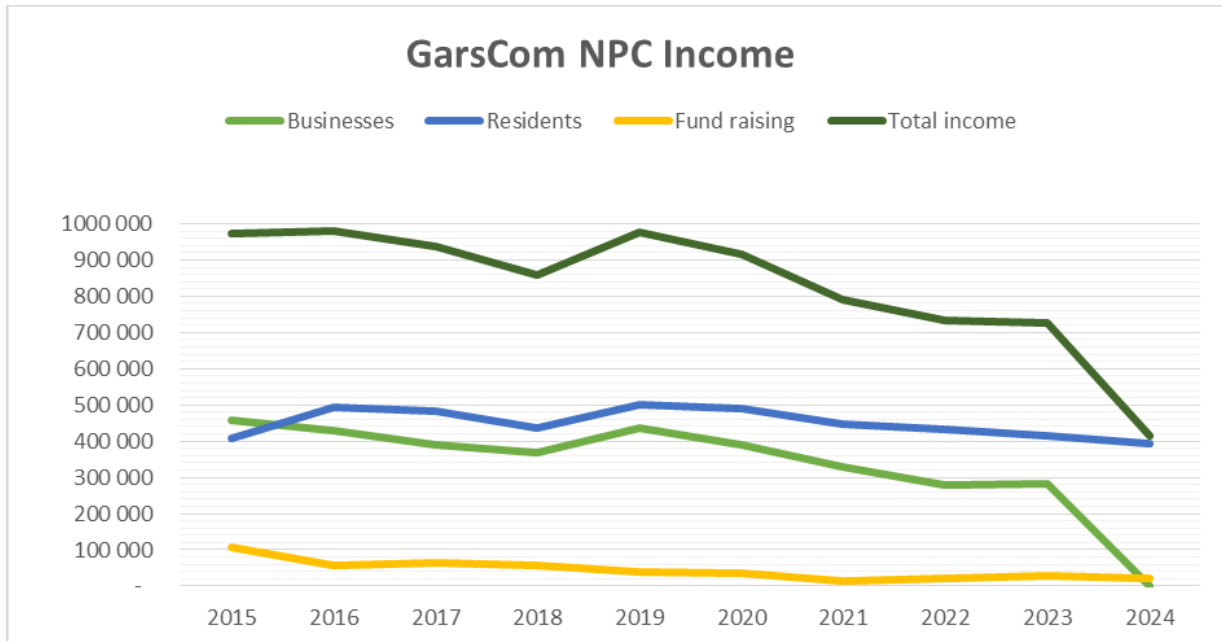
The year ending February 2024 created new and exciting challenges due to the change in our preferred security provider from National to Fidelity-ADT and associated new agreements that were put in place. We are still struggling to achieve

a positive curve in the income and yet again experienced a drop in financial contributions from the community. Financial contributions in 2024 were 5.3% down from 2023 (2023 contributions were down 2.2% from 2022). The overall income in 2024 is down 5.8% from 2023 (2023 was down 1.2% from 2022). This is the 5th year in a row that a decline in income is being observed and we will continue in our efforts to rectify this.

There was an overall saving of 7.2% on budgeted expenses and together with the decline in income, the year ended with a financial loss of R28 731 (2023: loss R128 284).

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Community contributions	-5.3%	-2.2%	-8.1%	-11.9%	-6.1%
Total income	-5.8%	-1.2%	-7.0%	-15.1%	-5.4%

(2024 figures shown without businesses, as this represents income from National)



1GarsCom NPC Income

GRA Membership Information

The decline in income is again directly contributed to the decline in membership from an average membership of 328 members in 2023 to an average membership of 310 members in 2024. This is mainly due to people moving out of the area and very few new members signing up. To date 9 new members signed up from 1 March to 26 April 2024 and 6 cancellations were received due to residents moving out of the area.

- In GarsCom we have 2441 residential units and only about 12.7% contribute monthly or yearly to the GarsCom Residents' Association.
- 100% of all residential units benefit from the contribution of the 12.7%.
- GarsCom can do so much more for the security and community projects and for the environment if more residents contribute.

4. PORTFOLIOS

Social Projects

Potjiekos

Our Potjiekos day will be held on 31st May. The patrol teams will compete in the competition. The patrol teams will be the hosts at the potjiekos evening, but any GarsCom resident can enter a potjie for the competition.

Three big prizes were sponsored for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd winners.

First prize: A week timeshare in the Drakensberg.

Second prize: A Weber braai

Third prize: R1000

Thank you to our sponsors, Raymond Stoppel, Louis van Heerden and Herklaas Meyer.

Mandela Day: Our 67 minutes' Madiba initiative project

On 18 July 2015, an initiative was launched during which 67 minutes on Mandela Day were dedicated by all participating residents of the Garscom area, in honour of Nelson Mandela's call for all South Africans to roll up their sleeves for 67 minutes of service, to also do our part.

This service delivery project was specifically aimed at picking up litter in our environment so that we can live in a tidy environment. Since then, this project

has become an annual event on a Saturday morning during July around Nelson Mandela's birthday, where residents of Garscom are invited to participate in cleaning up the environment. The turnout is often a drop in the proverbial bucket, where everyone armed with bags and gloves meets at a certain time and then walks around designated areas for 67 minutes picking up papers. Afterwards, all participants report back with satisfied hearts with their plastic bags full of litter, feeling dirty and complaining of back pain! The feedback afterwards is always the same, namely that the littering is unacceptable and disgraceful.

Cathy and Deon Coetzee took the initiative to start the project nine years ago and after all these years they still organize the event every year.

Mass Braai

On 20 May 2023, the streets in GarsCom were filled with street braais. All streets were invited to organise a street braai on the same evening and the result was a festive atmosphere for anyone driving around that night. Some streets started early in the afternoon, and some were still outside when it was dark. Some streets combined the festivities with neighbouring streets. Some streets had their braai in the middle of the road, on the sidewalk or in a cul de sac - no matter where, the sound of laughter and chatting and the smell of boerewors filled the neighbourhood. Fidelity-ADT sponsored the street braai for Basset Street because they had the highest percentage Fidelity-ADT members - congratulations to them!

Night Walk

On 30 June 2023, on one of the longest nights of the year, GarsCom hosted the first fun run since the COVID-19 pandemic. For the first time, the fun run was scheduled in the evening, with the theme: "Take Back the Streets". The Night Run received widespread attention and at least 300 children, adults, families, and even dogs attended, decorated in lights and high spirits. There were two routes: a 2km walk from the Great Dane Park to the Ten Rounds Gym on the corner of St. Bernard and Borzoi and back. Walkers received a cup of hot chocolate from our sponsor Harcourts at Ten Rounds. The other route was a 5km fun run that passed by a very festive water table in Geelvis Street with fire, music, water, and a cheerful crowd from Gerhard Shaw Physiotherapists. The Night Run also featured on the first page of the Beeld with the heading:

"Gemeenskappe staan saam teen misdaad" ("Communities unite against crime").

Food Project

We had a slow year for the food project, but with the community's help we were able to make a difference yet again. GarsCom donated 927 items and a bakkie load of Kellogg's cereals to Pharos, the community centre of the Lux Mundi Church, who also helps us with food parcels for those in need. A special word of thanks to the following streets who had the biggest impact: Mariette Nook, Seeleeu, Labrador, Bloedhond, Geelvis & Greyhound Streets. We'll "meet" again this year and keep on helping where we can!

GarsCom Night Market

During the past year the night market grew and proved to be a big success. The night market takes place every first and last Friday of each month. The market's finances are healthy and has built up a good credit. The Market committee agreed to purchase a generator, lights, and tablecloths. Werner Viet, who assists with the preparations in the park before and after the market, is being remunerated for his services.

Christmas Lights

On 15 December we had our annual Christmas light competition. Once again it was such a pleasure for judges and all community members to drive through the neighbourhood and share the joy of the Christmas season with the whole community. The Christmas light festivity started in the Great Dane Park as part of the night market. We had *boeresport* in the afternoon and the fire truck of Fidelity-ADT was ready to spray all participants with water after the sports event.

Father Christmas arrived and with his helper all the children could receive Christmas gifts. At 19h00 the two Tshwane busses departed from the park, packed with enthusiastic children and adults, for the Christmas light tour in GarsCom.

Christmas Hampers

The three GarsCom control room operators and the Fidelity-ADT patrol officers work together to keep our community safe. They help anyone in need and will always react on your calls. They were all on duty throughout the festive season. A committee of 5 GarsCom residents, Sonja Grobler, Grieta and Wickus Swart, Johanna Prozesky and Angelique Odendaal, organized the Christmas hampers for the operators and the F-ADT patrol officers at the end of 2023. The trolley for the donations at Woodhill SPAR, was beautifully decorated with Christmas decorations and the GarsCom residents donated with open hearts.

Herde Street Cleanup

Maryna Roelofse resided in Herder Street for many years. After her husband and son passed away years ago, she became a hermit and refused to have contact with anybody. Her neighbours, however, always watched her closely to make sure that she is still fine. In January 2024 the neighbours noticed that for long periods they did not see Maryna. They shared their concern, and we called the police for assistance. SAPS entered the house after forcing the front door open and found Maryna deceased in her bedroom. She has no relatives or friends that we know of.

After long discussions and negotiations, permission was given to clean the yard and remove the rubbish. The message went out to the community and a MIRACLE happened! Herder Street and all the neighbours responded immediately, and the cleaning could start.

- We informed the community and kept SAPS informed of what we were doing.
- Sid Viljoen from Ridgeback Street coordinated everyone who wanted to help, feed, clean, remove, secure, fund, fix and provide a sustainable service going forward.
- Anelle took care of the kittens. She also moved one of her outside lights so that Maryna`s house is lit in front.
- Susan keeps us informed of the funds donated by everyone for the expenses.
- Mariska and Venessa made sure that the workers had enough food and drinks.
- Corné and Johanna sent their workers to clean the yard in 3 days.

- Christian deforested the yard in one day. Within 3 days everything was removed.
- Joggie cleaned the gutters, cut logs, and installed locks where necessary.
- Dewald helped where help was needed and moved more lights from the neighbours to light Maryna`s yard.
- Peet ensured the safety of the premises and keeps a watchful eye every day.

This was the immediate response team; it is a continuous process, and everyone is helping and supporting. Some days there are up to 4 people doing maintenance in the yard. Anelle visits the cats twice a day. Herder Street residents and others from surrounding streets is now a team and have seen and learned that in times of need we stand together.

GarsCom community is proud of the people supporting each other in time of need.

5. COMMUNICATION

Social Media

Facebook

The Facebook page is a friendly means of communicating to the residents. Only GarsCom residents are allowed to be members of this Facebook group. The administrators are Shani Kotze and Daniël Smith. They contact each other regularly and will not remove or address a member if they have not discussed the matter among themselves.

Every Thursday is advertising day. Currently there are more than 2,200 members on the GarsCom Facebook.

WhatsApp Groups

- GarsCom street alert group

This is the main group from where info is being shared and each street in the area has a representative on this group with 66 members.

Last year in April WhatsApp released a new functionality called “communities” that allows multiple WhatsApp groups to belong to one community. Two new community groups were formed, North and South group. The North group has 1492 members, and the South group has 1115 members. The aim to use this in GarsCom is to alleviate the overhead from admins to send messages to their groups that will go to all groups anyway. This was only done to assist the admins and will not take away the dynamic of each street group. All street groups still exist and are being used for street affairs.

- Street Groups

Each street has its own WhatsApp group with residents living in that street. There are 60 streets in our area, but some groups combine 2 or more streets.

- GarsCom Pet Patrol

This group is mainly for lost and found pets in the area. Participants share telephone numbers to find owners and pets to reunite them. There are 109 members on the group.

- GarsCom Garden Friends

This is a WhatsApp group concerned with gardening. The members exchange tips on gardening and if there are questions, that will be discussed, and solutions offered. Currently this group is not very active, and we hope to see more gardening being done in the future. The group has 50 members.

- GarsCom Patrol Coordinator

The green light patrol teams are residents patrolling our area on their own time and with their own vehicles. There are 11 teams, and each team has a coordinator that is on this group. The coordinators manage their own groups and all messages that the patrollers must receive are sent to the coordinators on this group. The coordinators forward the messages to their groups. The group has 17 members.

- GarsCom Swap and Sell

This is a very well managed group that is well disciplined. There is no unnecessary chatting on the group and after advertising the goods you want to sell everybody communicates on private WhatsApp. There are 284 members.

- GarsCom Christmas Lights

The people who organise the Christmas lights are on this group. Every year all the people who enter the lights competition will be added to the group for easy communication.

- GarsCom Domestic Training

This training is only hosted once a year and therefore the people who present all the different sessions are informed on this group.

- GarsCom Information Control

Whenever the administrators of the main admin group post a report or news, they must make sure that the reports are not fake news. For that reason, this group was formed with people that can make sure that the news is true.

- GarsCom Translation/Editing

There is a group of volunteers who translate longer documents and take care of language editing. Some of those volunteers are also part of a WhatsApp group when a short WhatsApp message must be edited. This ensures that the messages we send out are always linguistically correct.

We have 5 translators who translate and proofread the text. They are Tessa Möller, Annemarie Schoeman, Laetitia Bottyan, Annette Stiff and Corrie Els. Without their assistance the quality of these newsletters would not be on the standard it is.

Weekly News

Since the beginning of 2024 a weekly email newsletter is sent to all email addresses that we have and not only to the GRA members. This email is sent every Monday morning, with the crime and community news of the previous week. This letter is sent in Afrikaans on email and a link is on the letter to enter the English version on the website.

Entrance Boards

GarsCom events are announced on the boards at both entrances to GarsCom. Pierre du Plooy managed the entrance boards from January 2023. He stood off at the end of April 2024 and Werner Viet took the responsibility for the entrance boards from May 2024.

Monthly Meetings

In 2023 we started to meet at the Noddyland creche in Great Dane Street. We also continued to have a Zoom link available for all residents that prefer to join the meeting online. Our annual general meeting (AGM) was held in May 2023. Wickus de Koker volunteered to help GarsCom with all IT issues. His knowledge was welcomed, and he was willing to help us with the monthly meeting to make sure all communication will be smooth and those who join online will be able to follow the meeting and participate.

Website

Jennifer Maier is our webmaster. The website is visited by more than 2,000 people.

Calander

Our annual GarsCom calendar allows anyone from the community (and outside) to advertise their business. This is a printed calendar (A5 booklet form) and is distributed to the members of our community. A couple of calendars goes to the advertisers if they request this from us.

We printed 1,500 calendars for 2024. This project needs to be self-sustainable. For printing the 2024 calendar we used Fetch DesignPrint, the company of a GarsCom resident, Debbie Semple.

Advertisers can choose from 3 sizes, and the prices are as follows:

- A5 – (half of an A4 page) R1,800 (R2,250 if you require our graphic designer to create the advertisement for you)
- A6 – (half of an A5 page) R1,100 (R1,450 if you require our graphic designer to create the advertisement for you)
- A7 – (quarter of an A5 page) R650 (R900 if you require our graphic designer to create the advertisement for you)

6. ENVIRONMENT

Street Clean-Up

Since 2015, Garscom has also employed Jan Phuti, a gardener in our area, to remove litter from the main roads, 2 main exits and 2 parks, once a week. Jan has thus provided this service to Garscom for the past 8 years. Jan was even noticed in this capacity by the Tshwane city council, and they equipped him with a long picker stick with which he can pick up the litter, a municipal uniform, and plastic bags. Garscom also gave Jan a beautiful yellow T-shirt and cap with our logo on it.

In the past year, Jan has also started picking up litter twice a week on his own, and he also helps to clean up the park in Great Dane Street for the market that takes place twice a month. Jan is paid R900/month by Garscom, and Cathy Coetzee pays an additional R100, so that he earns R1000 monthly.

The entrance at St. Bernard Street is one of the areas that is often characterized by unsightly litter. There is a need to beautify the entrances and possibly plant grass on the corners so that they can look neat.

Recycling

GarsCom still uses the company Blu Swirl to collect and recycle certain household items. Each household that wants to make use of this initiative pays a monthly or yearly fee to the company who will collect the items weekly in the bin that they provide. On a Thursday morning the recycle bins are put on the sidewalk and the truck will collect the recycling from there.

GarsCom also supports the informal recyclers, but they are requested not to take the Thursday recycling content in the bins. However, they are welcome to come on a Friday and collect the recycling items in the municipal bins. This arrangement is very successful.

GarsCom wishes that many more residents want to join a successful recycling project.

Parks

The GarsCom director works closely with the parks department of the city council to make sure that the parks stay clean and that the residents' safety can be guaranteed when they visit the park. The Night Market committee decided to erect 3 poles with solar lights in the Great Dane Park.

Urban Farming

In 2023, GarsCom started the Urban Farming initiative, to rethink the way we use land in our community. A group of residents sponsored the permaculture training of Oupa Lebese at UrbanScape, a GarsCom company specialising in permaculture. Oupa Lebese is now our first urban farmer, transforming our landscape one garden at a time.

Permaculture is a holistic approach to design sustainable human settlements that mimic natural ecosystems, emphasizing principles like earth care, people care, and fair share. It seeks to create harmonious relationships between humans and nature, maximizing resource efficiency and biodiversity while minimizing waste and reliance on external inputs.

Oupa started with three vegetable gardens in private gardens of residents in Geelvis Street, Greyhound Street and Beagle Street. Twice a week he tends to all the gardens in a single day, walking from the one to the other. This keeps costs and effort for the residents very low.

We also wanted to expand the project to public spaces and identified a piece of land which was overgrown by invasive species and full of litter. Residents were invited to take part in the cleaning of this area, on the 1st of May, Workers' Day.

The goal for the next year is to keep on growing! We want to expand the private gardens and add more public space to our community garden landscape. Currently our urban farmer is working in our community for two days per week. We hope he will be fully employed in GarsCom by the end of 2024, growing delicious, healthy, and organic food.

7. SECURITY

Control Room

The control room continues to serve as a central hub where all the cameras and radio communications are managed and monitored. Among many other benefits, the control room continues to provide services such as emergency support, incident management, radio assistance, lookouts for potential threats, and patrol coordination, whilst keeping detailed records of all occurrences.

Currently we have 3 operators operating 24/7 in the control room, managed by Anthony Schaaf as our control room manager.

In July 2023 Fidelity-ADT built a new control room for GarsCom and we moved from Whippet Street to 881 St Bernard Street. Unfortunately, this structure was not suitable for our control room, and we have now rented office space at 925 St Bernard Street. This new facility will be fully operational at the end of May 2024.

The control room operators in conjunction with the dedicated service provider, Fidelity-ADT, patrol officers, and the green light patrols, continue to contribute towards combating crime in GarsCom.

Strong relationships with SAPS Garsfontein and the TMPD, has led to improved service levels from the authorities, with successful arrests and reduced crime activities. The control room works closely with the SAPS sector managers, forwarding vital information to them which assists in crime control.

The control room assists ALL residents in GarsCom, regardless of whether they contribute to the expenses, or which security company they belong to. GarsCom continues to receive positive feedback mainly because of our cameras which can detect various abnormal activities instantly, and as a result, our operators are able to react immediately to prevent situations and keep crime out of GarsCom.

We look forward to another exciting year in the control room. With improved relationships, systems, and technologies, we can strive to towards a zero-crime area.

GarsCom Cameras

GarsCom has 27 working cameras which are being monitored in our control room. On the corner of Beagle and St Bernard Street, 3 vehicles were stolen in a short period of time. There are always a lot of cars parked outside the medical consulting rooms and two hairdressers. GarsCom installed 2 cameras on that corner and since then no vehicle was stolen. The ATM at the

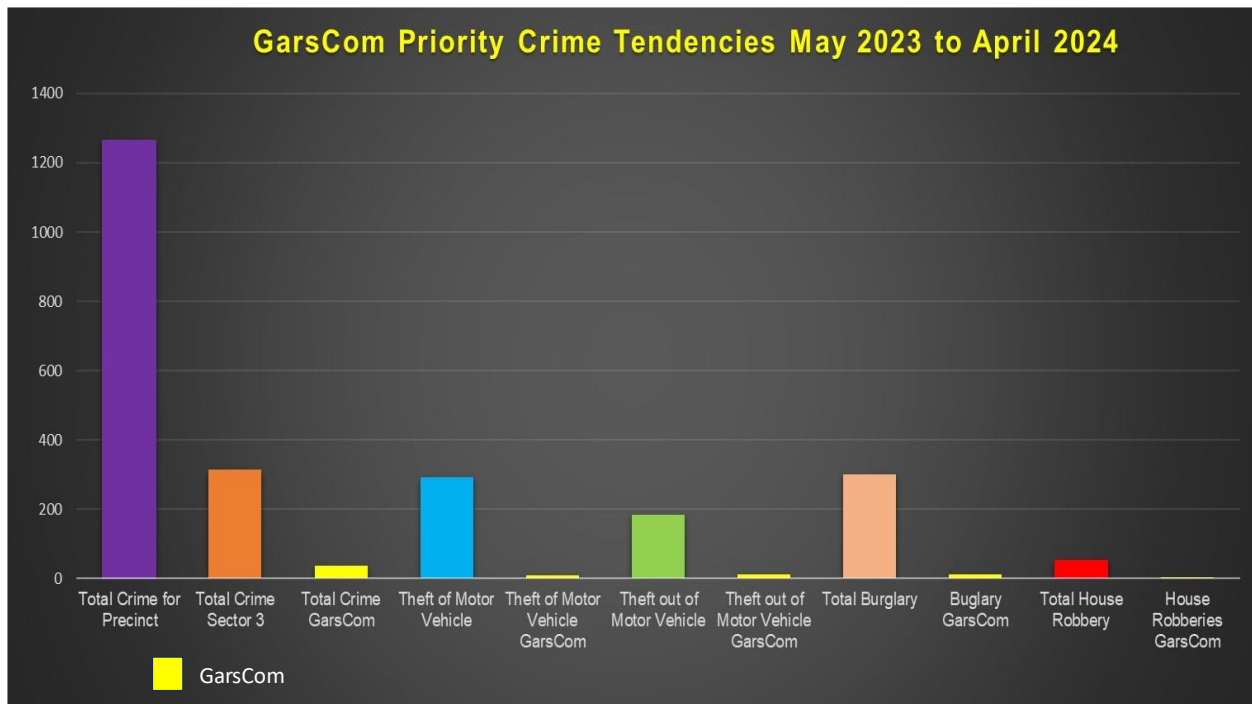
shopping centre was another danger point where especially elderly people were robbed. A camera was installed which clearly put an end to the incidents.

The latest addition is the PTZ camera which was installed in the Great Dane Park and works with solar energy.

Crime Tendencies

The Dedicated Community Managed Security model proves to be the most successful strategy as it delivers a holistic proactive approach to crime prevention. The weekly Crime Intelligence Forum meeting attended by GarsCom members is held with SAPS.

The tendencies continuously show that the pro-active model in GarsCom is effective in crime prevention, with GarsCom having the lowest crime rate across the Garsfontein precinct.



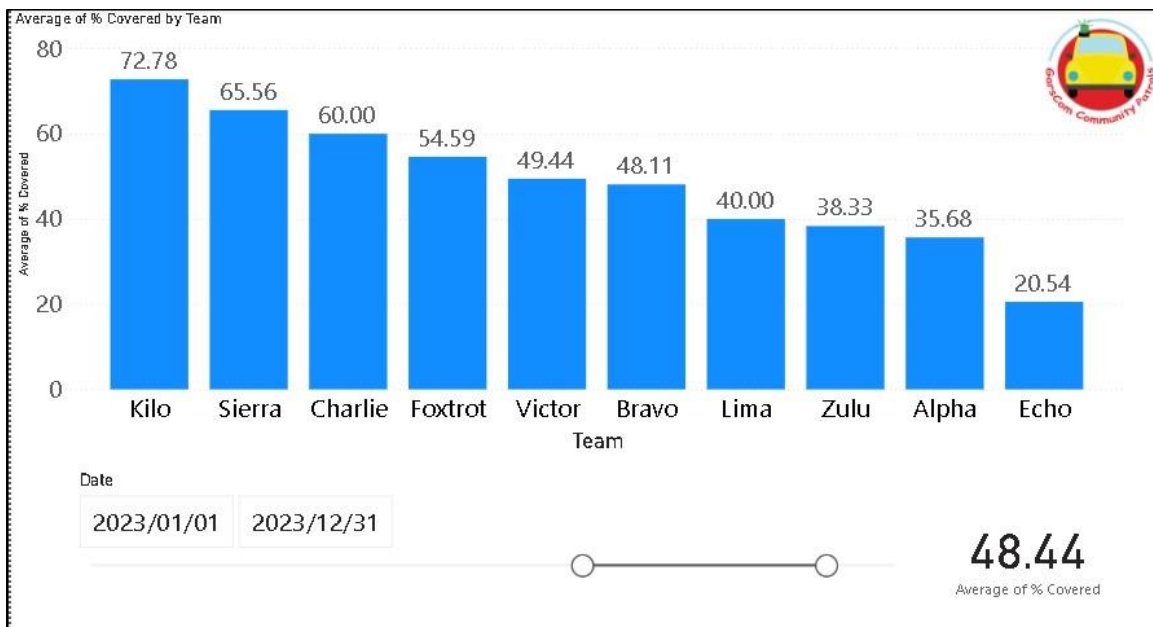
2 GarsCom Priority Crime Tendencies May 2023 - April 2024

Community Patrols

Our patrol teams (10 night teams, 1 day team) patrol every night and day. Unfortunately, the number of patrol members is declining, and we require more volunteers to assist with keeping our community safe. This is not a dangerous job, and the control room is in constant communication with the patroller. The patroller only acts as the eyes and ears for the control room and does not get involved with any suspicious activity, apart from giving the details through to the control room via a two-way radio. The radio, door magnets and green lights are supplied to you by the control room when your shift starts.

Suspicious activity may include open gates, open garage doors, people walking in the street late at night, people carrying objects, vehicles that are parked in the streets, fence jumpers, etc. Patrollers also report leaking pipes or fallen trees to the control room.

During 2023, our patrollers covered 48.44% of the available night shifts. Herewith the percentages covered by each team:



3 Patrollers Activity Jan 2023 - Dec 2023

From January 2024 until April 2024 we had a further decline in patrol shifts. In total 44.71 night shifts were covered.



4 Patrollers Activity Jan 2024 - April 2024

Day patrol has a different schedule. Each day patroller commits for an hour a week. Currently we have 6 day patrollers and together with André Vorster as coordinator these day patrollers are dedicated and whenever possible they will turn up for their shifts.

Two-way radio

Only members of GarsCom are allowed to use radios on the GarsCom frequency. For every shift the volunteer green light patrollers will receive a two-way radio to be in contact with the control room and the Fidelity-ADT patrollers. A few patrollers have their own two-way radios.

Fidelity-ADT

From 1 April 2023, GarsCom changed to Fidelity-ADT as the preferred security partner. There are many security companies, and many of them render great services, but none can offer what Fidelity-ADT is offering GarsCom.

- Dedicated proactive service

This is the most important factor. They agreed to have two patrol vehicles in our area that never leave the area and patrol the streets 24/7 every single day

of the year. A few patrol officers are dedicated to our area, to make sure they are people we know and trust and build our community with.

- Financial assistance with our control room:

Fidelity-ADT employed the 3 operators in the GarsCom control room and assigned them to our control room. FADT also pays their salaries. They installed an inverter in the control room to be a backup for loadshedding and pays the monthly electricity.

- Monthly fees

F-ADT gives special prices for clients in a proactive area such as GarsCom.

While we work with all security companies to monitor crime also outside of GarsCom, we believe that one security company should focus on one area – this allows for dedicated, intensive patrolling, faster responses to an emergency and effective collaboration between the community and the security company.

GarsCom Support Group

This group is led by Alda Muller as coordinator and assisted by Yolanda van der Merwe.

This dedicated team of supporters helps victims of crime, domestic violence, suicide attempts and many more.

The group now consists of the following people:

1. Patrollers
2. Medical staff
3. Trauma councillors
4. Hospitality staff
5. Prayer group members
6. Animal assistance
7. Handy man

Strategic Groups

This group is now dormant and will hold meetings as needed to ensure that decisions are made in the best interest of the GarsCom community.

Domestic Training

In 2023 we had no training due to our moving into a new control room and changing from National to Fidelity-ADT. Our next training will be during May 2024.

8. GARSCOM IS PART OF A WIDER COMMUNITY SAFETY & SECURITY NETWORK

Garsfontein CPF

The Garsfontein police precinct consists of 4 sectors. All 4 sectors have sector committees and the chairpersons of the sectors form part of the Garsfontein Community Policing Forum (CPF). The CPF believes in:

- A good partnership with the management team of the security services.
- The community should also have a good relationship with the local police. Get to know the sector patrollers, sector commander, the other members of the station, the station commander.
- The community should be part of the CPF.

The CPF chairperson, retired General Chris de Kock, and the chairperson of Sector 3, Martie van der Westhuizen, is actively involved in combating crime in the Garsfontein police precinct. Anthony Schaaf from GarsCom is the vice chair of Sector 3.

Sector 3

GarsCom forms part of Sector 3.

The borders of Sector 3 are Garsfontein Road, Atterbury Road, January Masilela Road and Matt Road. GarsCom forms 30% of the larger Garsfontein area with 2441 residential units within our borders.

The whole of Sector 3 is divided into 10 blocks and each block is managed and organised by a block leader. All the block leaders form the Sector 3 committee. This committee meets every month.

It is not only of utmost importance to share information that can benefit other areas, but also to learn from other areas. Therefore, GarsCom will always be keen on networking with other neighbouring areas. GarsCom is also assisting other blocks in their effort to tighten their security and to get the patrols going again.

Garsfontein Security Forum

Every Monday morning from 10h00 to 11h00 this forum meets at the Lux Mundi church in Floris Street. The meeting consists of members of the security companies active in our area, residents of the police precinct, ward councillors, the Garsfontein Police and Metro Police department.

GarsCom is well represented on this forum. In this meeting the crime from the previous week is being discussed as well as community issues affecting community safety and security. The police chair the meeting and Carol van Niekerk from GarsCom acts as secretary. The cooperation between these entities is very important for successful policing. GarsCom initiated this meeting in 2005 and since then this meeting continues to grow and contributes to the safety of our entire area.

Woodville Security Forum

This forum was created in March 2022 for all security companies and estates east of GarsCom. It is very important that GarsCom is represented on that forum because criminal activities such as cable theft, smash and grab incidents, etc. have a direct effect on GarsCom and other neighbouring areas. All residents must work together to be on the lookout for wanted criminals.

A few members of GarsCom represent GarsCom on this forum. Woodhill estate installed a LPR camera on the corner of Garsfontein Road and De Villebois Avenue. This is a well-known smash and grab corner. Woodhill control room cannot monitor this camera. For immediate results it is very important that a camera in such an important spot must be monitored. GarsCom negotiated with Woodhill, and it was agreed that the GarsCom control room will monitor that camera.

Ward 45

The whole of GarsCom forms part of the political ward 45. Betsie Basson is the councillor of this ward. GarsCom works closely with the councillor. She is always available to help. Betsie is also part of our main WhatsApp group to convey important messages directly to the GarsCom residents.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

There are two groups of people in GarsCom who serve the community and who deserve our thanks:

The group that receives remuneration for their work:

- The 3 operators of the control room. The operators work as a team for every resident in GarsCom. These operators are always loyal and faithful in doing their work.
- The financial team, Powerfin, for the efficient way in which they manage the finances.
- Thank you to Mr Reinhard van Wyk of Van Wyk & Vennote, who is the auditor for the GarsCom Residents' Association.
- Ilana van der Merwe, our graphic designer who sends out our weekly email messages. Ilana takes initiative and ensures that email letters are always sent out with a relevant GarsCom illustration.
- Thank you to Pierre du Plooy for managing the entrance boards the past 16 months.
- Jan Phuti, for the weekly cleaning of some main streets in GarsCom.

The group of volunteer workers:

- Directors

I thank all the dedicated directors. The directors are always willing to help where necessary. There has never been a director that was unwilling to do the work and then blamed the uninvolved community members for not doing their

part. The whole of the GarsCom community and I can always rely on the directors.

- Patrollers

All the patrollers for keeping our streets safe night and day. The day patrollers keep the so-called spotters out of our area. Not long ago a day patroller phoned the control room to ask assistance for a gate that is only halfway open. When the ADT patrol officer arrived at the house, they spotted people trying to get entry into the garage. This break-in was prevented. This is a great and selfless contribution.

- Patrol coordinators

The patrol coordinators who manage their teams in such an excellent way. These coordinators do their patrol shifts regularly and they are also committed to manage a team with excellent results. It is because of their positive input that our teams remain motivated.

- Control room manager:

Anthony Schaaf is the control room manager and although he works as a volunteer, he spends a lot of time in the control room making sure everything runs smoothly. He has every operator`s best interest at heart.

- WhatsApp administrators

All street WhatsApp administrators and back-up administrators for making sure that all members of their streets or groups are well informed about security, pets, and other community news.

- GarsCom Facebook administrators:

Shani Kotze and Daniël Smith, who keep a watchful eye on Facebook and manage the new applications.

- Editing and translation

Tessa Möller, Annemarie Schoeman, Annette Stiff, Corrie Els, and Laetitia Bottyan for their precise and faithful work of writing, proof-reading, and editing the weekly news. They are also assisted by Phoebe Machere.

Annemarie Schoeman also assists with translation of reports and minutes, mostly on short notice.

- Project leaders

The many volunteers who organise community events and gatherings. All of you do an exceptional service to the GarsCom community and every project contributes to build this community.

Thank you to pastor AB and Solomon Machere from Wesleyan Church in Great Dane Street, who agreed that GarsCom can use their facilities for our meetings.

Every resident that contributes financially by paying a monthly fee and those who make donations above and beyond the monthly contribution.

Erick Becker and Fidelity-ADT, thank you for providing a reliable and effective security service and for your open door policy. You have become an appreciated GarsCom partner.

Our councillor Betsie Basson deserves a warm applause. She is always attentive, friendly and focused.

10. IN CLOSING

My annual report was written in collaboration with all project managers. Thank you very much for everyone`s contribution. The work that the volunteers do motivates and inspires me. And I must mention the collaboration with Fidelity-ADT. Without their cooperation our model cannot work. The model is that one company has 2 vehicles that patrol 24/7 in GarsCom. This is proactive patrolling, and it is very effective in preventing crime.

GarsCom residents can basically be divided into 4 groups:

- The first group does not understand the model and is therefore passive
- The second group understands the model but for some or other reason works against us

- The third group is the largest group who think they do not need to get involved because we are safe – so why bother?
- The fourth group is involved. They contribute financially and drive all the GarsCom projects as volunteers. This is the group that keeps GarsCom alive. For the financial sustainability of the proactive model it is critical to grow this group. It is important to be involved, to know what is going on, to stay up to date with our security and other events in the community.

Crime in GarsCom is very low, because of the work done by Fidelity-ADT, the Garscom patrollers and all the other volunteers. The ideal situation is to get more residents of GarsCom involved in the prevention of crime. This can be done if residents volunteer to help with the patrols and for residents to become members of the GarsCom Residents' Association. To keep our proactive model economically feasible, we need funds. GarsCom can do so much more for the security and community projects and for the environment if more residents contribute.

The apostle Paul speaks in the Bible of the body that has many members, each with a different function, and that they need each other and depend on each other. That also applies to us. As a resident, you are a member of the GarsCom community. If you are already involved, we appreciate your contribution. If not, just take note that your community needs your contribution, we look forward to having you playing your role.

May you all be blessed with a crime free life in GarsCom.

Carol van Niekerk
May 2024