

# **GORDON'S BAY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (GBNW)**

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

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## 1. Members

- a) The code of conduct and the constitution is binding on GBNW structure and the members thereof.
- b) The GBNW and its members must at all times act in a non-violent manner. No member may take the law into his or her own hands irrespective of circumstances.
- c) No member of GBNW shall display racism, sexism or any other form of discrimination towards any member and any other person.
- d) The GBNW shall not allow any member to carry any weapon/s perceive to be dangerous that could inflict serious bodily and or damage to property; this shall included dangerous weapon as defined by law when patrolling. Only weapons for sole propose of self defense as approved by the Provincial Commissioner South African Police Services – Western Cape may be used.
- e) The GBNW shall ensure that all neighbourhood watch members with firearms declare such to the local South African Police Services or the office of the Neighbourhood watch as appointed by the resident station commissioner of the South African Police Services.
- f) Should a member be found guilty of a criminal offence, the neighbourhood watch structure must respect the decision of the courts and immediately institute disciplinary measures as defined herein. The GBNW will issue a public statement regarding its action.
- g) GBNW members shall not divulge any confidential or privileged information that they may have acquired as a result of their membership of the GBNW structure.
- h) The GBNW and its executive committee shall mandate a member to address, and or make public statements, and or make public announcements, in matters pertaining to the neighbourhood watch structure.

- i) GBNW members found to be making public statements and or addressing the media without the explicit authority duly mandating the member to act for and on behalf of the GBNW will be found guilty of a serious offence, resulting in the immediate suspension of the member pending expulsion subject to the merits of the matter. The GBNW shall with immediate effect rectify the matter and make a public statement in this respect.
- j) No GBNW member may accept any payment, commission or gratuity in connection with his or her membership of the neighbourhood watch structure, except after being duly authorized to do so by the neighbourhood watch structure.
- k) Not with-standing the above, should any payment, commission or gratuity be offered to a GBNW member, the executive committee of the GBNW shall act in the best interest of the neighbourhood watch. The GBNW member accepting the offer shall with immediate effect and in writing advise that GBNW structure of its decision and or actions in this regard.
- l) No GBNW member may exploit its membership of the neighbourhood watch structure to its own personal advantage or benefit.
- m) GBNW members must at all times act in a manner that will uphold and promote the aims and objectives of the neighbourhood watch structure as highlighted by the GBNW structure constitution and code of conduct.

## 2. Structure

- a) The GBNW will be a non-profit making organisation.
- b) The GBNW structure must be non-politically aligned and or should not participated or engage or support or secure the premises where any political activity is being conducted from. However, should the GBNW structure be requested to promote a safe environment its acceptance must be performed within the framework of the law and as contained herein.

A public and official statement must be made at the meeting and or gathering in regard to the statues of the GBNW concern.

- c) The GBNW structure and its members must operate in partnership with South African Police Services, and within the framework of the law.
- d) Should GBNW structure choose to do patrols, only minimum force, as described in the Criminal Procedures Act No. 51 of 1977 may be used to secure the arrest of the perpetrator of an offence and no

intimidation in whatever form may be used in the communities where such patrols will be taking place.

- e) If such patrols are to take place, the local South African Police Services must be informed and the South African Police Services officer or reservists, wherever possible, must support such neighbourhood watch patrols.
- f) The neighbourhood watch structure must by means of registration ensure that no person under the age of 18 years participates in GBNW patrol/s.
- g) The GBNW structure will appropriately penalize a member of neighbourhood watch structure if such member is found guilty of misconduct or has brought the good name of the association into disrepute, depending on the merits of the case.
- h) Where there is conflict between the GBNW structure's code of conduct and constitution and the Western Cape Provincial Constitution and Code of Conduct for neighbourhood Watch Structures, the latter shall be decisive.
- i) The GBNW structure shall sign a pledge endorsing the Western Cape Provincial Constitution and Code of Conduct for Neighbourhood Watch Structures.
- j) The GBNW structure and its members is not a substitute for the South African Police Services.

### **3. Disciplinary Measure**

All disciplinary measures will entail:

- a) Reprimand
- b) Suspension
- c) Expulsion subject to investigation

In the event of any complaint against a member of the GBNW lodged with the GBNW, the GBNW may propose to reprimand, suspend, expel the member, subject to an investigation and to deal with the matter at its earliest convenience and advise the complainant in regard to its action. Furthermore the GBNW shall with immediate effect advise the CPF in regards to its decision and the action taken.

## **GUIDELINES FOR WORKING TOGETHER**

- a) The South African Police Services will, wherever possible, provide members, reservists, or assist to arrange for members from other law

enforcement agencies to supervise the GBNW when patrols are undertaken.

- b) The Department of Community Services will decide on approval of all project-funding applications for a registered neighbourhood watches that are submitted by a registered CPF.
- c) The GBNW structure, its members, and the South African Police Services must share information on matters pertaining to crime prevention and the apprehension of criminals.
- d) The South African Police Services and the CPF must assist each other in the publicity campaign for the local neighbourhood watch structure.

## **COMMON PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES**

### **1. Liability**

- a) GBNW structure cannot be held responsible for the action of a member. A member may request the GBNW Structure to assist in obtaining some form of legal assistance and or legal aid.

### **2. Minimum force**

Attention is drawn to the Criminal Procedures Act No. 51 of 1977 (section 49 (1) thereof. "A person so authorized may, in order to effect the arrest, use such force as may in the circumstances be reasonably necessary to overcome the resistance or to prevent the person concerned from fleeing."

### **3. Relationship with the Community Police Forum**

The Neighbourhood Watch Structure will support all activities of the local Community Police Forum.

### **4. The role of SAPS**

- a) The office responsible for social crime prevention will accept the responsibility to encourage local communities to organize themselves in Neighbourhood Watch Structure.
- b) The South African Police Services will provide all possible assistance to the Neighbourhood Watch Structures to ensure its smooth running within the legal and budgetary constrains on it.