Business Fighting Crime

In partnership with the Pietermaritzburg & Midlands Chamber of Business

BUSINESS FIGHTING CRIME

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BFC CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2022 -2023

Dear members, the year has flown by so fast that I hope that we have done justice and maximised this time to its full potential.

My report last year mentioned us publishing the Bylaws of the City, but subsequently we have liaised with Msunduzi and they have advised that they are continuously publishing this on their Facebook page.

August 2022 saw us being invited by the SAPS District Commander, Brigadier Gwala, to introduce the Safer Cities Project. The idea behind it, is to make Umgungundlovu a smart City/District. The concept looks good on paper and has not yet been implemented, however I do believe that it would work in our favour to get the basics right first, before implementing something like this.

In that same month, the Department of Community Safety and liaison met with us, wanting to partner with us, in a project, promoting school safety and crime awareness with the children. We were also approached in September 2022, by the One Life Foundation, to assist with the sponsorship of toilets for the Wold Homeless day event that they were hosting at the YMCA on the 09th of October 2022. We thank Sanitech for giving this to us at a discounted price of R1150-00, as detailed in our financials.

In October last year we also did two appeals in the EBizBlitz to our members to assist with donation of any kind towards the homeless shelter as well requesting prizes for the aforementioned school safety and crime awareness project. Sadly at that stage nothing had come of either of these two calls for assistance. The adverts costed us R633-00.

Black Friday in November 2022 came with a few crime challenges, however SAPS, liaised closely with us, and all members were guided accordingly via the EBlitz.

BFC had enquired as to the plans SAPS had for the 16 days of activism and as result I had joined the SAPS team, as and when I could. Asmalls had also graciously sponsored the GBV awareness posters as well as clothing for the women and children at Ubunye Place of Safety and Esther House.

Since BFC was working very closely with the PMB Homeless Network, myself and one of our other members Mr. Jason Herbert, from Safe City, were requested to sit as Directors of the Network. This has resulted in a lot of progress, so much so that we have now been giving a building situated at 30 Doull Road. I will go further into this, shortly.



To create more of an awareness of BFC, we did an advert in the PMCB wall calendar, however this cost will not reflect on these financials.

In February this year we were requested by one the businesses to create an emergency preparedness WhatsApp group. I must confess we did not do so, due to POPIA requirements. I do however see merit in creating this as it's a faster way to disseminate information than the EBlitz. To those members who wish us to do so, kindly contact Heidi or I and we can get the ball rolling on this.

Most of you must be aware of the threats that were made regarding the EFF March that was to happen on the 20th of March 2023. In preparation of same, we attended several meetings with SAPS and Disaster management as well as other relevant stakeholders. Members were informed, guided and prepared accordingly. Subsequent to these meetings, we realised that both Melanie and I need to be branded, so that people are aware of who we represent. Thank you to Asmalls and Capital Printers for sponsorship of our Golfers as well the printing thereof.

BFC were approached by Safe City to sponsor the car discs that we have done in the past, for their stall at the Royal Agricultural show. The BFC team however enhanced on this and we took a decision to use this as our opportunity to hand out pamphlets with crime tips paid by BFC, but also to promote our banking details in the hopes of raising funds. We were lucky that Asmalls sponsored the car discs and we therefore saved on this cost. Melanie and I, as well as the Chamber interns worked at the Royal Show during this period, at days and times that suited our schedule, handing out these pamphlets to people.

We were also approached in May this year by the National Prosecuting authority, requesting us to sponsor cameras in the Plessislaer area, where crime is highly prevalent. They were of course redirected to Safe City, however this resulted in us having a meeting at City Hall, where we then left the matter in the hands of Safe City and Msunduzi Municipality to assist.

As mentioned previously the Homeless Shelter building is in the process of being leased to the PMBHN. The building needs a lot of work as well as resources. To fund raise the Network is hosting a Paint and Sip event on 12th August 2023, and BFC has sponsored the advertorial for this event in the Eblitz. This went out on 23rd June 2023, as well as a write up regarding this. I have also prepared a list of things that are needed and I appeal to members to assist where they can. Ultimately the drug/homeless issues is affecting everyone, most especially business, hence assisting the Network, is unfortunately a means to an end.

BFC's current financials does not of course reflect some of the aforementioned expenditure, however you will note that we have a deficit of R47,950-00, which is an approximate R1110,00 difference more of a deficit than 2021. In fact the year before saw an even higher difference.

You will note that our income comes from two sources. Donations for the year, in the amount of R6000-00, from, "Nuvo Rubber". I take this opportunity to again thank "Nuvo Rubber" for continuing to give us donations, even through these tough economic times. We truly appreciate it and without your support we will be in a much worse financial position. The second source of income is the interest we earning from our investment. To the Companies that have sponsored based on specific projects we wish to thank you profusely for helping us to turn those projects into



a reality. These two incomes however amount to approximately R20,000,00 and assists us to cover at least our audit fees and bank charges and other small expenses however the bulk of our costs come from our Administration and management fees and you will see that we are having to draw from our investment to pay this.

I therefore once again appeal to our members to assist BFC in sponsorship, in any amount, as every little bit will assist to keep BFC sustainable. Continuing in this way does not seem feasible nor sustainable at all.

I thank Moore Midlands, for preparing the annual financials and for ensuring that BFC is always transparent to our members in respect of same.

To the staff of PMCB and the BFC committee I wish to say thank you for your input as and when required and the guidance that you give me.

Finally to our members, I must say that I have tried and continue to try to tackle the crime issues plaguing PMB, all I ask is for your support to continue to do so.

I thank you all.

Kantha Naidoo BFC Chairperson

