



Good day, Park Islanders!

Our first official newsletter is finally out and we hope you find it informative. Your committee has been working in the background since July 1st to get the CID up and running as smoothly as possible. There have been some administrative challenges, mostly out of our control, but the good news is that our security is in place and the money is coming in! Now let us introduce ourselves and give you the news of the past few months.

Introducing Your Committee

When a CID is formed, the original steering committee that established that CID must act as the initial committee for at least 6 months to ensure continuity. So you will find you know us all. Our portfolios are as follows:

1. Boudje Giljam: Administration Portfolio
2. Gregory Meierhans: Security Cameras Portfolio
3. Colin Reeves: Security Guards Portfolio
4. Euvrard Loubser: Environment Portfolio
5. Lara Röttcher: Communications Portfolio
6. Patrick Tuckwell: Street Representatives Portfolio
7. Robin Carlisle: MDGA ExCom Liaison

There will be an in-person Members' Meeting in late November and we look forward to seeing you there. Notification of this will be forthcoming soon.

The Rates Adjustment

We were dismayed to discover from the July CoCT municipal invoices that the Improvement District rate applied to each ratepayer was incorrect - the Council used the incorrect rates database in the calculation. The rate is overstated by 38%.

Unfortunately, it is not a simple matter to correct, as the incorrect rate was promulgated and cannot be changed except by a new promulgation. Council is busy with the approval process which unfortunately does take time. The new lower correct rate can only be promulgated after approval by the full Council meeting at the end of October. The corrected rate has been approved by the Portfolio Committee this month.

The Council will then include a notice on the municipal account of all residential property owners informing them that the additional rate will be adjusted. All Improvement District billing will be reversed and rebilled at the correct additional rate as from 1 July 2023.

The only silver lining in this matter is that PICID is receiving its monthly budgetary funding from the Council, so we can operate and pay our suppliers.

Feedback on Our Security Guards

Since our CID started officially operating at the beginning of July 2023, fortunately, we have not had any serious security breaches or incidents. This certainly does not mean that we should reduce our vigilance. Please don't leave doors unlocked, or windows and gates unnecessarily open. These actions so often welcome unwanted guests into our properties, which can result in tragic consequences. It is incumbent on us all to notify the Ithuba control room (079 905 7633) and the PI Security WhatsApp group if suspicious activity or any emergency is taking place in our area.

It also doesn't mean that there haven't been any incidents. There was an incident involving the theft of a battery from a motor vehicle, but some believe that a resident, within Park Island (PI), possibly, carried this out. There is no evidence that security personnel didn't perform to our expectations. Similarly, we had the occasional knock on our doors by "outsiders" asking for assistance. The Marina is a Home Owners Association and our roads are public property. Anybody is entitled to come onto PI. All security can do is vet and challenge any suspicious people in an attempt to dissuade them from wandering our streets.

These challenges certainly take place on a regular basis resulting in far fewer potential incidents. Being proactive makes it very difficult to measure the "successes". Ithuba recently assisted us with measuring movements into PI, just through the vehicle access entrance, and on average during the dayshift, 06h00 to 18h00, approximately 500 motor vehicles drive in and about 70 pedestrians walk in. This excludes access over the Uitsig and Eastlake Island bridges. You can judge how difficult this is to control.

When speaking to the Ithuba Security Officers, please bear in mind that they, firstly, think they are in some sort of trouble. It is what it is. Secondly, they are being addressed in what is, most probably, not their home language. Please speak slowly and explain exactly what you mean so that there is full understanding. They will also tell you that they understand just to make you happy. If you're not sure, ask them to explain what you said.

If anyone has any suggestions or needs to discuss any concerns, please WhatsApp me, Colin Reeves, on 083 625 4845.

Status of our Security Cameras Network

Nine new security cameras have been installed across PI, establishing our camera network. These cameras are actively monitored by Deep Blue on a 24-hour basis. We are currently working on providing backup power to the cameras. Another security camera will be added to the network in the near future. It will be installed overlooking the entrance gate to the Park Island Reserve.

The 9 PICID cameras are in addition to the MDGA cameras installed at the entrance, which are also monitored by Deep Blue. The entrance cameras already have backup power supplied by one of our residents.

Regarding Our Open Spaces

The CID is supporting the MDGA's gardening program by working with the 6 gardeners who are in our area every 3 weeks. Cherry Giljam has stepped in on a temporary basis to keep the gardens built up by Sylvia Stringer alive and well. You will also see Cherry has started cleaning up our

outer beds on Prince George Drive and it is looking very promising! We are moving into the Summer maintenance season so the next few months will mostly be looking after what we have. Planting season will commence when Autumn comes around again, and we will have published planting plans in place by then.

Give our gardening teams the support they need and look after your beautiful open spaces. Please remember to keep your dogs on leads and out of the flower beds. That applies to children too, please.

Update Your Contact Details

The CID needs your latest contact details for our records to ensure we can contact you.

Please send an email to parkislandcid@gmail.com with your:

- preferred name(s),
- are you an owner / co-owner / tenant,
- current email address,
- Park Island street address,
- residential address (if not on Park Island), and
- cell phone number.

Kindly let us know if you would NOT like to be added to:

1. Our security WhatsApp group for immediate security concerns or issues that need to be addressed by the security companies (this group is not for chatting), and
2. Our mailing list for general CID information

Please send us the contact details of your tenant(s), co-owner(s) or owner(s) that we should have. (Tenants benefit from the Security Whatsapp group.)

General

You will notice the sign boards on our two pedestrian gates have been upgraded by Deep Blue Security and Colin. This has been a long time coming and looks much better. The next item to upgrade will be the big notice board at our road entrance on Park Island Way. We will be working on this over the next few months.

Furthermore, the website is currently being updated with all the CoCT-required documents and items. We will add all newsletters and announcements to the website in future, so you can always access previous correspondence in the website archives.

Please feel free to contact us with any suggestions or comments at our email address: parkislandcid@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support!

Regards

Lara Röttcher, on behalf of

Your PICID Committee