

KNYSNA COMMUNITY POLICE FORUM



Date: 29th March 2015

RED BIB PARKING ATTENDANTS PRESS RELEASE



The influx of opportunists' car guards wearing different shades of yellow, orange and green bibs, cheaply available in Knysna, and often operating with less honest intentions, has resulted in lots of confusion in Knysna, prompting the Knysna Sector 1 Community Police Forum to introduce the "Red Bib Business Watch" initiative in partnership with Knysna Municipal Law Enforcement, and the South African Police Service Knysna.

A collective drive, between these partners, to streamline the longstanding problem of unofficial, unmonitored 'car guards' in Knysna has progressed, a year later, to the stage where now only Parking Attendants wearing **RED BIBS**, have been approved to safeguard vehicles and their immediate areas, in the greater Knysna area.

The Sector 1 Community Police Forum initiated the Red Bib 'Business Watch' Parking Attendant concept in partnership with Knysna Municipal Law Enforcement and South African Police Services Knysna, inviting Business to get involved, by approving of and monitoring the Business Watch parking attendant in their immediate area. Red Bibs may be branded with the business' logo.

In this ongoing project, the red bib Parking attendants are registered with Knysna Municipal Law Enforcement and screened by the South African Police Services Knysna. The Red Bib Parking Attendants are required to attend monthly meetings at which guidelines and concerns are

addressed with the partners (Knysna SAPS and Knysna Law Enforcement) and representatives from Sector 1 CPSF. Red Bib Parking Attendants will also be issued with warnings if complaints about their conduct have been noted and their bibs will be removed, if need be. We urge the public to support this initiative; Red Bib Parking Attendants represent Knysna, and they should be courteous and neatly dressed with visible ID tags displaying their name.

Our thanks to all the individual Businesses who have come on board, and especially to the bigger sponsorships received from Craig Smith, Knysna Tourism, Caltex Waterfront , Knysna Mall and Blitsdruk, who enabled the Project to get underway. We will continue to work towards streamlining this Project. We appeal to the community to assist us further by refraining from giving tips to vagrants and opportunists' car guards in and around town during the day and at night. These individuals are often known to be involved in opportunistic crime and are recognizable by their rude aggressive behavior, which is often fuelled by drug use. Should any member of the public experience such behavior, please report incidents to the Knysna Municipal Law Enforcement office. "Only by working together, to get rid of opportunists, can we create a safer environment for all." said Cheryl Britz, Chairperson for the Knysna Community Police Forum.

Businesses that would like to get involved and would like to purchase a Red Bib for their approved screened attendant in their area can contact: Cheryl Britz at 082 574 9657, or on jccj@absamail.co.za. To report any Parking Attendant concerns or report opportunist problems, please contact Mr. Steven Langlands, Knysna Municipal Law Enforcement Department at slanglands@knysna.gov.za, or Mr. Mvuleni Mposelwa or Mr. Ricardo Kamfer at 044 302 6300 or 044 302 6551.

END ###

Please find attached Photograph to go with below Press Release:

Photo taken by: Cheryl Britz

Photo from Left to Right first names and titles:

Back row: Bonnie Hendricks (Canon Main Street) Pieter Degenaar (Royal Hotel) Christo Mina (Post Office Main Street)

Front Row; Petrus Hlobo (Central Pharmacy) Johan Wildschut (Lower Grey Street) Eric Nkwali (Riviera Café Main street)
