

St George Local Area Command Community Safety Precinct Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 21st March 2019

TIME COMMENCED: 1.30PM

Minutes: S/Cst Krcalovic

Welcome and Chaired by Superintendent Julian Griffiths, St George Police Area Command.

1. Present and apologies

PRESENT:

Name	Organisation	Contact	Email
Superintendent Julian Griffiths	NSWPF	8566 7499	
Crime Manager Robert Allison	NSWPF	8566 7499	
Senior Constable Sonia Krcalovic CPO	NSWPF	9375 8502	KRCA1SON@police.nsw.gov.au
Leading Senior Constable Matt Wright	NSWPF		
Ryan Morgan	David Coleman Office		
Mikall Chong	Chinese Community Leader		
Reginald Da Lapa Soares	Board Member of Advance Diversity Services		
Stephen Williamson	Bayside Council		

Madeleine Challen	Hammond Care at Home		
Patrick Cordova	Head of Security & Emergency, Georges River Council		
Patrick Medway	Bexley Chambers of Commerce		
Debbie Manning	Dept of Human Services		
Caroline Tumeth	3Bridges		
Jenny Tang	Advance Diversity Services		
Clara Kelleher	Disability Services Australia		
Christina Wu	Councillor – Georges River Council		

APOLOGIES:

Connie Alifano	Lugarno Community Member
Patrick James	Community Leader
Debbie Manning	Department of Human Services
Stephen Bible	Connells Point Progress Association
Mark Coure MP	Member for Oatley
Chris Minns	Member for Kogarah
Julie Dimevski	Hurstville Westfield Security
George Perivolarellis	Steve Kamper MP Office
Nicholas Christo	Christo Architects Pty Ltd
Ernest Yung	Executive Support Officer
Divesh Narayan	Department of Human Services
Danny Robinson	St George Leagues Club
Ian Todd	Kingsgrove RSL Club

Moussa Chahine	Al Zahra Mosque
Senior Constable Ray Kerridge CPO	NSWPF
Kim Fenwick, MCLO St George PAC	NSWPF

2. AMENDMENTS TO MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING/ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Nil.

3. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil actions

ACTION	TASKED TO	RESULT

4. WELCOME & COMMANDER'S REPORT

Superintendent Julian Griffiths welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

5. APOLOGIES

Senior Constable Krcalovic advised of apologies from today's meeting

6. OVERVIEW OF CURRENT CRIME TRENDS

Discussed by Superintendent Julian Griffiths

Break and Enter Dwelling

- Slight increase in offences when comparing 2017 to 2018 results
- Hurstville and Bexley the two main areas
- Monday & Thursday most prominent days – midday to 9pm
- Currency, jewellery (watches/necklaces & rings), laptops and keys

Achievements;

- Arrest and charge of Irish National (21 old) in connection with an aggravated Break and Enter offence in South Hurstville on 6 February 2019. Linked to a syndicate involved in alleged scamming.
- Male now identified as being wanted in UK for similar offences (50 plus)
- Arrest / charge of two males on 14/2 after local investigations into multiple B&E offences in Penshurst, Carlton and Rockdale – jewellery and cash – search warrants in Cabramatta – bail refused.

Break and Enter Non-Dwelling

- Significant decrease in results between 2017 and 2018
- Hurstville, Rockdale and Wolli Creek most prominent
- Cash, power tools and laptops most common property stolen

Assault (Alcohol Related Non DV)

- Increase in reported offences – still a lot being reported where no further investigation requested.
- Hurstville, Wollri Creek and Brighton Le Sands
- Brighton – NYE and weeks following (January) number of people from outside the area.

Robbery

- Notable decrease in robbery offences
- Physical force / intimidation most common – firearm accounts for 10% of offences
- No pattern to where they are occurring as you will see from the map
- Some links to near public transport but varied locations inc advertising property for sale
- Over 30% of robberies in PAC – offender associated with victim
- Proceeds are mobile phone, cash or back pack.

Achievements;

- New Year's Day 2019 – woman waiting for her son to finish work, parked in loading dock of Woolworths Kogarah. Male approached her and held a knife demanding she get out of her car.
- 32-year-old male NFPA identified following good investigative work – charged with Aggravated Robbery and other offences – bail refused.

Steal from Motor Vehicle

- Even though showing a decrease in 2018 compared to 2017 current command priority.
- Hurstville, Bexley and Brighton Le Sands most prominent locations
- Saturday, Monday and Tuesday most prominent days and early morning most prominent time.
- Number plates most popular proceeds and then cash, credit cards which result in frauds also popular
- People seeing leaving valuables in vehicle, so they can be seen in some cases vehicles left open.

Stolen Vehicles

- Slight decrease on YTD
- Wide spread out over the command with Kogarah, Rockdale and Wollri Creek peaking
- About 40% of vehicles are not recovered

- Saw an increase in trailers being stolen back of December and January – arrest made in this and a search warrant in Moorebank saw them stop for a period – couple starting back.
- Detectives arrested a male and a female responsible for stealing a BMW from Beverley Hills and later attempted to portray themselves as police – arrested in Chester Hill after they ran over a detective's foot trying to affect their arrest in Homebush – committed a number of offences across different police commands.
- Working with Youth Services and FACS on young offenders stealing vehicles in Hurstville particularly Toyota Camrys.

Malicious Damage

- Decrease on YTD
- Hurstville, Kogarah and Brighton Le Sands most popular areas

Drug Detections

- Kogarah, Bexley and Wolli Creek and Hurstville

Drug Supply

- Number of properties identified as being used to manufacture cannabis
- Peakhurst in January and Allawah in February – 150 plants and pods overstayed Visa
- Search warrant February @ Kogarah – commercial quantity of drugs and large amount of cash
- Also in February – search warrants executed @ Kingsgrove, Penshurst, Kogarah & Hurstville – 280 cannabis plants & 20 kilograms of cannabis leaf – syndicate operating between St George area and Wentworthville arrested.

Fatal / Serious MVA's

- Whilst 35% decrease it has been a terrible time on the roads over this period.
- 2 January – Connells Point Road – 18-year-old P Plate driver charged with serious charges including Drive Speed / Manner Dangerous, Dangerous Driving causing GBH – passenger suffered closed head injury / fractured pelvis & internal injuries originally listed as critical.
- 18 January – 32-year-old rider of a cycle and his 44 -year-old pillion killed at Kingsgrove Road Kingsgrove after being struck by a bus. 48-year-old bus driver since charged with Dangerous Driving Causing Death

- 7 February – 51-year-old push bike rider lost control down a hill in Clarence Road, Rockdale and went over the handle bars and died from head injuries a couple of days later
- 12 March – two women aged 65 and 62 killed when a 21 year old in an alleged stolen Landcruiser crossed onto the incorrect side of Henry Lawson Drive at Peakhurst. Driver has since been charged with Manslaughter and a number of other serious driving and criminal offences.
- Hurstville, Beverley Hills, Sans Souci most prevalent with Kings Georges Road the major road for collisions.
- Thursday and afternoons between 3pm and 6pm the peak times.
- NSW Police is encouraging people to report crime (Domestic and non-Domestic related crime).

7. Crash Investigation Unit

Presented by Leading Senior Constable Matt Wright

- **Metropolitan Crash Investigation Unit**
 - The Metropolitan Crash Investigation Unit (CIU), is a specialist unit forming part of the NSW Police Traffic and Highway Patrol Command. Based in Huntingwood, the unit covers a total area of over 14,000sq km which includes Sydney Metro, Central Coast, Blue Mountains and the Southern Highlands area.
 - **The CIU will attend in the following circumstances:**
 - Death or serious injuries where serious indictable charges are likely.
 - Death or serious injuries where the responsible party cannot be determined
 - Death or serious injuries where an offender has failed to stop
 - Death or serious injury where an NSW Police Force vehicle, or on-duty member is involved
 - A major incident of an unusual nature
 - Not so long ago this unit was called the Accident Investigation Squad. The name was changed as attitudes and understanding of the nature of motor vehicle collisions changed. An “Accident” generally implies that there is no-one to blame.
In most cases, it’s not “just an accident”. In almost all cases there is something that someone has done, or failed to do, that caused a collision. If the CIU attend to investigate, it’s because that collision resulted in the serious injury or death of a person or persons.
All police have the power and ability to investigate collisions. If CIU do not attend, Detectives or General Duties Police will carry out the investigation.

- **How is a crash investigated?**
 - Physical evidence has to be identified
 - Evidence then has to be collected, analysed and interpreted
 - The scene is recorded and documented
 - All involved parties and any witnesses have to be spoken to
 - Environmental/engineering contributors are considered
 - Theories have to be tested as to the causation of the collision
 - Brief of evidence has to be compiled
 - Investigating police have to report the matter to either criminal or coroners court
- **The most Common Causes of Injury and Fatal Cashes**
 - **Fatigue** – Driver fatigue causes almost 20 per cent of the annual NSW road toll, that's 1 in 5 fatal collisions being fatigue related.

Fatigue symptoms can include:

- Yawning
- Poor concentration
- Tired or sore eyes
- Restlessness
- Slow reaction
- Boredom
- Feeling irritable
- Making fewer and larger steering corrections
- Missing road signs
- Having difficulty staying in the lane
- Micro sleeps

For motorcyclists:

- Running wide on corners
- Rough gear changes
- Day dreaming
- Dry mouth
- Stiff joints

High risk times for fatigue related crashes are:

- Night/early in the morning 10.00pm-6.00am
- Afternoon 1.00pm – 3.00pm

- **Impairment/Drink Driving** – you don't have to be drunk to be affected by alcohol. The following brain functions are reduced by impairment of alcohol and drugs:
 - Decision making
 - Problem solving
 - Emotions
 - Physical movement
 - Vision
 - Perception of risk and reaction
 - Memory

NSW has three Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAS) limits:

- Zero – applies to all learner drivers, all Provisional 1&2 drivers

- 0.02 – applies to drivers of vehicles greater than 13.9 tonnes, drivers of vehicles carrying dangerous goods, drivers of public vehicles such as taxi or bus drivers
- 0.05 – applies to all other licences not subject to a 0.02 or zero limit
- **Speeding** – you do not have to be travelling above the speed limit for speed to be a contributing factor in a collision. Not driving at a speed appropriate to the conditions (ie road, weather, driver experience) can also be a contributing factor in a collision
- **More than 80 per cent of speeding casualty involving P-plate drivers occur in urban areas including 60 per cent in Sydney region.**
- **Inattention** – crashes often occur as a result of only a moment's inattention. Some of the worst driver distractions are:
 - Mobile phones (talking and texting). Using a mobile phone while driving can increase the risk of a collision by four times, according to several studies. Sending text is even worse.
 - Other occupants (human and animal). The stats tell us there's more chance of causing a fatal crash when you have two or more friends in the car, especially male passengers. Peer pressure can increase a drivers 'risk taking' behaviour.
 - Eating, drinking and smoking. Aside from the obvious dangers of drink-driving, even sipping on a non-alcoholic drink takes your focus off the road.
 - External distractions. As if there wasn't enough happening inside the car, there are lots of things outside too. You have to look out for other drivers and pedestrians, while trying to block out the roadside billboards, shops and all sorts of unexpected or interesting things going on in the street.
 - Adjusting vehicle settings. This is the most common bad driving habit, because many people don't realise it's dangerous to fiddle with the radio, air-conditioning or windows.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Mikall Chong providing positive feedback "Police are doing great work" but even when the driver is charged and went to court, they will receive a 'slap on the wrist' receiving a community service and couple of hundreds of dollars penalty. The judges are not following the sentencing term. L/S/Cst Wright – the judge will compare that case with another similar case and based on that will sentence the driver.
- When we hear on news that the car 'loss control' and crashed, what does that mean? L/S/Cst Wright – it is up to us (Police) to find out if it is driver's or vehicle's fault. The media will report it as 'loss of control' because we are still investigating.

- If the driver who is at fault causes a permanent brain damage to the other driver (victim), what is the penalty? L/S/Cst Wright – No prosecution (jail term).
- Steve Williamson – I remember the accident on Mona Vale Road couple of years ago. Do you follow up with the vehicle’s company whether the vehicle was defective? L/S/Cst Wright – Yes, we do.
- Steve Williamson – Georges River Council are still receiving complaints about the Kyeemagh Boat Ramp. We have placed 5 CCTV and the amount of complaints are still very high. What is your comment on that? Superintendent Griffiths – We will follow this up with the Highway Patrol Unit.
- Superintendent Griffiths – there was an issue raised about placing a CCTV at Lugarno. Do we have any representation from Georges River Council to tell us what is the outcome of this? Patrick Cordova – yes. Unfortunately, the application for funding has been knocked back. We will be submitting another application through different department.

9. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS:

ACTION	TASKED TO	RESULT
Nil		

10. CLOSE OF MEETING: 2.30pm

11. NEXT MEETING: To be advised.