Dear Clients

Below please find a Newsletter from the Community Camera Fund regarding their services and contributions in the Kenton on Sea, Riversbend and Bushmans areas.

Those who do not contribute towards the Community Camera Fund, please read through this letter to give you a better perspective on how it works and what value for money you get.

It is a global email, so those who don't live in these areas can ignore the email.

If you have any queries regarding this letter, please contact Ference Toth directly on 0732870223 or ftoth355@gmail.com

Kind Regards

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Community Camera Fund News Letter 04.12.2024

The Community Camera Fund is a non-profit community project managed by a group of residents who are committed to ensuring that their efforts will assist in keeping the community safe from crime. The Community Camera Fund Executive is well represented in the Community Police Forum of Kenton on sea. Through the Community Police Forum the camera fund is also registered with NATIONAL VEHICLE INTELLIGENCE CLOUD (NAVIC) Network.

Purpose of Fund

The fund aims to provide the necessary framework for the implementation and on-going maintenance of a strategic camera network that will support the community security needs.

Background to the Fund

The community Camera fund was started in 2011 to answer the increase in crime in our entire area, being: Kenton on Sea, Merryhill, R343, R72, Riversbend and Boesmans River. A group of concerned local residents volunteered to set up cameras in these areas and set about monitoring them. Success was limited due to:

- Limited funding
- Technical issues around internet connection
- Limited bandwidth issues resulting in limited camera installations.
- Connectivity to Hi-Tec control room resulting in poor quality resolution.

- Inability to view cameras on-line real time.

Committee

The present committee comprises of 5 members:

Ference Toth (Chairman)

Adrian Purdon

Ken Rogers

Chris Barnard (Hitec)

Annine De Wet (Finance) (Secretary)

Funding.

- Contributions to the Community Camera fund are voluntary. Hi-Tec collects the fees on behalf of The Community Camera Fund via a R 50.00 monthly debit order or a R 600.00 annual fee. These fees are reconciled by Hi-Tec and transferred to the fund on a monthly and annual basis.
- The funds collected are crucial in order for the committee to provide a professional, effective and stable surveillance platform.
- Audited Financial Records are in place.
- It is proposed that the monthly fee be increased to R 75.00 pm and the annual fee to

R 900.00. This additional funding will assist in the ongoing installations and support of the camera network.

Current Situation

Camera fund activities

- The Community Camera fund is presently responsible for the maintenance and operation of the camera network. Activities include:
    - Installation and maintenance of cameras and the regular cleaning of camera lenses.
    - Replacement of redundant and faulty cameras.
    - Assistance in monitoring the camera network.
    - Installation of new cameras in strategic areas.
    - Telkom tower access rental.
    - Wireless and data management.

- Evaluation and implementation of new technology in consultation with our Service providers.
- Place cameras in community areas where they benefit everyone.

Camera network

- Presently there are 180 cameras installed in the various areas. This includes:
  - Program ivms-4200 from Hikvision. LPR cameras.
  - National Vehicle Intelligence Cloud (NAVIC). 10 Cameras.
  - SpotBot Intruder detection system cameras. Presently 8 cameras have been installed.

System Technology / Installation

- **Program ivms-4200 from Hikvision. LPR cameras**. This system is used for the majority of the cameras in operation. This Free operating platform is going to be discontinued in a few months. This will need a new operating system at a huge cost as we are growing as a community.

Spotbot Intruder Detection System

The SPOTBOT system provides 24/7 human detection on CCTV camera feeds. A single SPOTBOT module can monitor a maximum of 8 CCTV camera feeds at a time. SPOTBOT works by targeting only the human form of an intruder through advanced artificial intelligence. SPOTBOT eliminates 99% of false alarms that motion detection features of CCTV cameras can supply.

- The benefit of this type of installation is that monitoring is simplified as the cameras are only activated when movement is detected.
- A copy of the image is immediately available to the monitoring person as well as response units.
- All SPOTBOT devices come with the Armed Response Integration feature which is compatible with Hi-Tec's monitoring software, enabling it to also send intruder alerts directly to their control room monitor as well as selected mobile phone images for off-site monitoring by armed response and Night Watch personnel.

National Vehicle Intelligence Cloud (NAVIC)

NAVIC is an S.A Company that provides the necessary framework for the tracking of suspect vehicles on a national database. NAVIC sends alerts whenever a vehicle related to any reported crime passes a License Plate Recognition (LPR) camera which captures the letters and numbers of a license plate of a vehicle that passes by. These cameras are linked to the National Grid and qualified SAPS, Hi-Tec and Night Watch personnel will receive positive notifications via mobile phone for reaction and follow up.

- Cameras have been installed at entrances to Boesmans River, Marselle, Harmony Park, Kenton on Sea, Riversbend, Ekuphumleni, Klipfontein R343 and R72. Arterial roads. These installations have proven to be most effective in combating and reducing crime in the area.

Private Installations

Cameras have been installed and paid for by private residents. Some of these cameras are placed onto our network to obtain footage of any past activity in a specific area.

Maintenance of equipment

Cameras and wiring are checked and cleaned on an ongoing basis.

Current Challenges/issues

Monitoring

- **Programme IVMS 4200 LPR camera system.**
    - A decision was taken to discontinue the 24/7 monitoring of the camera network by Hi-Tec control centre staff. The person monitoring the cameras was faced with having to keep a constant eye on the camera feeds coming in. This is time-consuming and troublesome. Incidents are not always detected, and a lot of time is taken to go back on footage to identify problems. Tapes often end up stored and unwatched.
    - The **existing camera network will still be operational for obtaining footage of any past activity in a specific area.**
    - Will be supported by Lighting, Solar, UPS's or batteries to allow for 24/7 monitoring purposes during power outages.
    - **The SpotBot camera network has been integrated into HiTec's monitoring system.**

Loadshedding

- Loadshedding has a major effect on the camera network as most it not supported by alternate power and therefore and cannot be monitored during this time.
- Theft of equipment, cable theft and vandalism are activities that take place more often during loadshedding.

Cleaning equipment

- Cameras and connections need to be inspected for rust, deterioration due to the environmental elements and need to be cleaned and adjusted on an ongoing basis.

Network capacity

- The present network experiences problems with internet connections, bandwidth, speed, downtime as well as the connection to the control room. Bearing this in mind it is essential that other options be investigated to overcome these problems.

Strategy going forward.

Detection system/ Network

- The strategy going forward is to install additional cameras linked to the Spot Bot system in strategic areas only with a view to extending the network and infrastructure as and when required.

Existing Systems

- The existing camera network will be maintained. Where possible existing cameras will be "piggybacked" onto alternate power sources, i.e. residents that have Fibre, Solar and Batteries, in case of power outages. New privately owned cameras will not be added to the existing monitoring network at this stage.
- Continue utilising the existing Post Office tower by installing software to assist in the monitoring process utilising Fibre.
- Wherever possible the strategic camera network will be connected to available fibre both within the Business area and personal household network.

Project action plans including Timelines.

- A project plan has been implemented and will be monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that activities are realistic based on the limited financial and technical resources available.
- This needs a step-by-step approach to implementation in order to gain meaningful benefit.
- It is important not to raise expectations regarding unrealistic deliverables.
- This detailed project plan is available on request.

Items prioritised at this stage are:

- Service level Agreements (SLA's) between The Community Camera Fund and all Service Providers have been reviewed and are presently being finalised.
- Investigate alternate power source for network during loadshedding.
- Identify non-operational cameras daily with view to making them operational as soon as possible.
- Provide images from selected cameras for loading directly to the Business Community Website for live on-line viewing.
- Re-evaluate existing camera installation sites with a view to possibly decommissioning or moving them to a more strategic area.
- Detailed asset register reflecting all camera and equipment installations.

Success to date

- The Community Camera Fund, Neighbourhood Watch, Night Watch, Hi-Tec and SAPS have worked together resulting in a dramatically reduce crime rate over the past

year. We will continue working together to ensure that the crime rate is kept at a minimum.

- All residents are benefitting, those paying and those that are not yet paying towards the Community Camera Fund. Kenton on Sea CBD area is fully covered by the camera network and visitors and residents can shop without worrying about their safety. It is through this camera network that we are able to slow down the ATM fraud and shoplifting. Recently perpetrators were arrested for ATM fraud and shoplifting due to the camera network in the CBD.
- Cameras are also installed on the main beaches.
- All entrances/ exits to Kenton on Sea, Boesmans River, Merryhill, Ekuphumleni, the R343 and R 72 are covered in our License Plate Recognition (LPR) camera network. Once vehicles are flagged on the LPR system the camera network successfully tracks vehicles along the R72 including Alexander and Port Alfred resulting in many arrests.
- The Community Camera Fund is integral to the successes gained by the Neighbourhood watch, Night Watch Team, Community Policing Forum (CPF) and SAPS. These community-based entities form part of the Kenton Sector including local farming community. They are reliant on volunteers giving up their valuable time day and night sometimes under very difficult circumstances.
- On a number of occasions SAPS have been successful in apprehending suspects with stolen goods with assistance from the camera fund footage.
- Recently there was an incident where SAPS East London stopped a vehicle and found stolen goods in the vehicle. With assistance from the camera footage the goods were traced to a housebreaking in Merryhill.
- Many vehicles flagged on the camera system as far away as Gqeberha and East London have been stopped and the occupants detained.

Appeal to residents and business owners

- We are encouraging residents and business owners to continue supporting the Community Camera Fund and we appeal to those that are not yet contributing paying to consider assisting financially as the camera network protects all residents and visitors alike. Please spread the word we need as many residents contributing as possible. We would like to be in a position that we can continue saying that we live in a low crime area.

Credit to Ken Rogers for writing this newsletter

Ference Toth

Community Camera Fund

Chairman