



PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON POLICE (PCOP)

NORWOOD POLICE STATION (GAUTENG)

2022-02-23

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PURPOSE OF THE PRESENTATION

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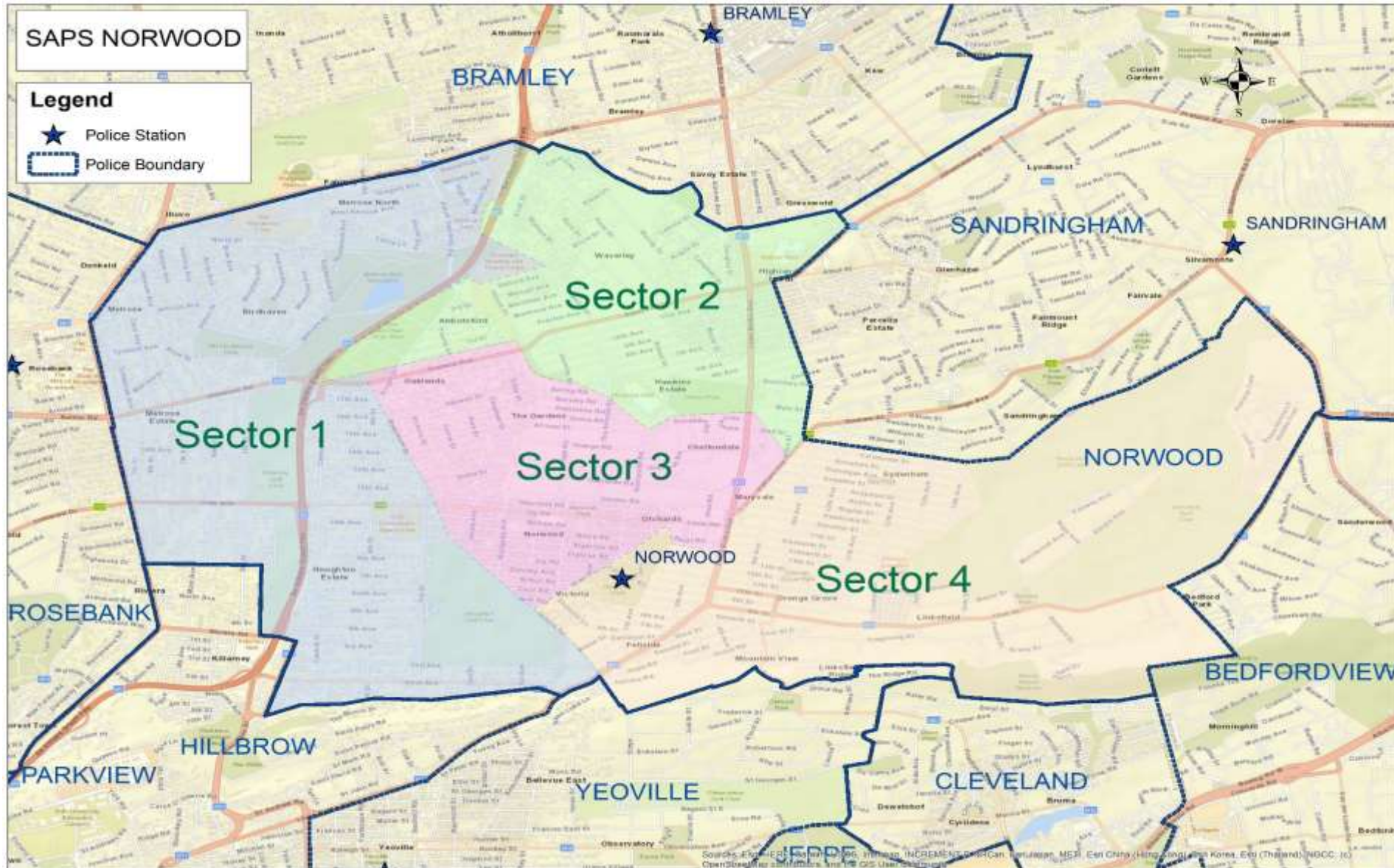


The purpose of the presentation is to brief the Portfolio Committee on Police, on matters pertaining to the Norwood Police Station, including the aspects relating to the theft of firearms at the Station.



STATION OVERVIEW / PROFILE

STATION PRECINCT MAP





STATION PROFILE

- Size of the Station Area in square kilometres: **24 km²**
- Population – Mid-year population estimates 2021 (StatsSA): **57 827**
- Unemployment Rate (currently released): **23%**
- Number of Sectors: **4**
- Station Classification: **Urban**
- Municipal Wards: 72, 73, 74
- Position in Gauteng, in terms of Crime Weight contribution: **98 /143**

Sector	Description	Block Number
Sector 1	Houghton Estate , Melrose, Melrose North, Melrose estate, Birdhaven , Birnam, Fairway & Houghton	6307 , 6322, 6314, 6310, 6313, 6311, 6307
Sector 2	Waverley, Highlands North, Highlands north extension, Abbotsford, Rouxville , Maryvale & Forbesdale	6309, 6308, 6319, 6317, 6318, 7115
Sector 3	Norwood, Oaklands, Cheltondale, Orchards, The Gardens & Hawkins estate	6316, 6320, 6318
Sector 4	Orange Grove, Linksfield, Linksfield Ridge, Mountain View, Sydenham, Fairwood, Victoria & Fellside	6326, 6323, 6326



STATION PROFILE

☐ Infrastructure influencing policing

INFRASTRUCTURE								
Tertiary Institutions	Schools	Hospitals	Clinics	Surgeries (Dr Rooms)	Churches	On-consumption (Taverns)	Off-consumption (Liquor Outlets)	Spaza Shops
2	38	1	7	23	25	54	12	1
Taxi Ranks	Hostels	Train Stations	Dominant Industries					
9	0	1	0					
Second Hand Goods								
General Dealers	Auctioneers			Jewellers	Motor vehicle dealers	Scrap metal dealers		Recyclers
33	0			2	4	4		0



BACKGROUND TO CURRENT FIREARM SITUATION

BACKGROUND (1)



- During July 2021 the Ballistics Section, Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) informed the National Priority Violent Crimes Bureau (NPVC): Directorate for Priority Crimes Investigation (DPCI), that four firearms, which were previously submitted for analysis, vide Norwood, CAS 240/05/2014, had been recovered from two crime scenes, namely; Mooinooi CAS 84/06/2021, a Cash in Transit Robbery and Brakpan CAS 207/07/2021, Attempted Murder of SAPS members.
- The possibility, therefore, existed that these firearms had been stolen from the Norwood SAPS 13 store and as such, an Enquiry was registered, vide Johannesburg Serious Organised Crime Investigation Enquiry 07/08/2021.
- Subsequently, the Norwood Police Station was visited by the NPVC and Gauteng DPCI, on 2021-08-03, with the intention to conduct an audit on all SAPS 13 firearms. Due to the absence of the responsible member, access could not be obtained and the applicable locks, safes and storeroom were sealed.
- A report was received, on 2021-08-05, that the seals had been tampered with, whereafter a case docket for Defeating the ends of Justice was registered. The member responsible for the SAPS 13 store committed suicide, on 2021-08-07.

BACKGROUND (2)



- The audit of the SAPS 13 store and firearms continued, from 2021-08-10, during which various discrepancies and anomalies in contravention of prescripts were uncovered.
- The audit process included the following:
 - Drawing all ballistic reports pertaining to all firearms from the Norwood SAPS 13 store that were handed in for analysis.
 - Drawing all CAS reports regarding exhibits that were entered on CAS, to determine which firearms were handed in and obtain a description thereof.
 - Following up on packaging notes, to determine if firearms were sent for destruction.
 - Drawing of dockets, to determine if any disposal orders were made regarding the firearms and acted upon without an entry being made in the SAPS 13 register.
 - Identifying laboratory numbers on the firearms and thereby linking them to a CAS and SAPS 13 number.
- A total of 704 firearms were found in the SAPS 13 store, after conclusion of the audit.

BACKGROUND (3)



- It was established, with a reasonable degree of certainty, that 175 firearms were missing from the safe. These include 134 exhibit firearms and 41 amnesty firearms. This figure may increase as the investigation progresses.
- A total of 530 of the 704 firearms in the SAPS 13 store were test fired, for the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) purposes. The remainder of the firearms could not be test fired, due to unserviceability and age, as well as no ammunition for the particular calibres.
- The investigation into this matter, to determine the exact number of firearms missing, as well as identification of possible suspects is ongoing, by the DPCI.
- The Station Commander of the Norwood Police Station, resigned on 2022-01-14. An acting Station Commander, Lt Col Mathe has since been appointed.



MEASURES IMPLEMENTED TO ADDRESS AREAS OF CONCERN

MEASURES IMPLEMENTED TO ADDRESS AREAS OF CONCERN (2)



- Resulting from the occurrences, including complaints by the Community Policing Forum (CPF), the following actions were implemented at the Norwood Police Station:
 - An Inspection Team, comprising six members, attached to the Provincial Detective Service (Compliance Monitoring & Evaluation), is conducting intermittent inspections.
 - The Provincial Inspectorate was tasked to conduct a full-scale inspection, on all aspects.
 - The establishment of a District Detective Intervention Team, during November 2021, focusing on case dockets vs SAPS 13 exhibits.
 - The District Commissioner directed a Senior Officer, at the level of a Brigadier, to conduct an inspection on a number of aspects, during January 2022. A number of shortcomings were identified, resulting in the registering of departmental disciplinary cases against identified managers and supervisors, for investigation. (DR 01/2022 & DR 02/2022).

MEASURES IMPLEMENTED TO ADDRESS AREAS OF CONCERN (2)



- Disciplinary proceedings against junior members, attached to the Firearms, Liquor and Second-Hand Goods (FLASH) environment, are also being dealt with, in accordance with the SAPS Disciplinary Regulations. Functionaries, in terms of the Chairperson and the Employer Representative, have been appointed. Due to the Chairperson also being appointed to chair in a Head Office matter, a new Chairperson will be appointed.
- Conducting of a Case Docket Analysis, by Crime Intelligence, on specific cases relating to drug charges.
- Investigation of an Enquiry by the DPCI, vide Johannesburg Serious Organised Crime, CAS 07/08/2021, which will be translated into a criminal investigation at the appropriate time.
- Development and implementation of an Action Plan, by the District Commissioner, addressing specific focus areas including matters highlighted during discussions with the CPF.

MEASURES IMPLEMENTED TO ADDRESS AREAS OF CONCERN (3)



- A new management team has been appointed at Norwood Police Station, as follows:

Function	Incumbent
Acting Station Commander **	Lt Col P Mathe
Head Visible Policing	Lt Col NP Mogaile
Head Detective Services	Lt Col NC Mohoa
Head Support Services	Lt Col ME Miya

** Application for advertisement and permanent filling of Station Commander post in process



CONCLUSION

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- The Gauteng SAPS Management remains resolute in its fight against crime and corruption and in its endeavours to ensure effective Governance. Where the latter is found lacking, immediate and proper measures are instituted throughout the various organisational levels, to ensure redress.



THANK YOU