



KEEPING PINELANDS SAFE THIS FESTIVE SEASON

Over the festive season, Pinelands once again demonstrated the power of coordinated community safety through the Pinelands Community Improvement District's Festive Season Safety Project. From early December through early January, a comprehensive operation was rolled out to ensure that residents, businesses and visitors could enjoy the season in a safe, well-managed environment.

A VISIBLE, PROACTIVE PRESENCE

The festive period brings increased activity to shopping centres, public spaces and transport routes. Recognising this, Pinelands CID implemented 24/7 safety coverage with staggered shifts to maximise visibility during peak hours. Fixed and mobile patrols focused on key areas such as Central Square, Howard Centre, Forest Drive and the Pinelands Canal, acting as both a deterrent to crime and a rapid response mechanism when incidents arose.

CID officers worked closely with safety partners and the CID Control Room, responding in real time to crime intelligence networks, reports from residents and businesses and CCTV alerts. This integrated approach ensured that suspicious activity was identified early and addressed before it could escalate.



PARTNERSHIPS THAT STRENGTHEN SAFETY

A defining feature of the project was the strong collaboration between Pinelands CID and its safety partners. Joint operations were conducted with City Law Enforcement, Metro Police, Traffic Services and collaboration with Community in Blue, Pinelands Neighbourhood Watch and the South African Police Service (SAPS).

High-visibility vehicle patrols and road safety operations, including vehicle and alcohol checks, helped maintain order on main routes and deter opportunistic crime. Law Enforcement officers focused on by-law compliance, addressing issues such as illegal trading, public drinking and noise complaints, while Metro Police provided tactical support for higher-risk incidents.

Bicycle patrols added another layer of coverage, particularly along the canal, in pedestrian zones and in hard-to-reach areas. These patrollers also played a key role in community engagement, interacting with joggers, dog walkers and families, and promoting responsible use of shared public spaces.



COMMUNITY-FOCUSED SAFETY

Beyond enforcement, the festive safety project placed a strong emphasis on community engagement and awareness. Safety awareness walkabouts, festive signage and regular updates on social media helped keep residents informed and involved. Messages encouraging vigilance, responsible alcohol use and reporting of suspicious behaviour reinforced the idea that safety is a shared responsibility.

Social development partners, including Umanyano, assisted with patrols in hotspot areas, contributing to a more holistic approach that balanced enforcement with social awareness.

RESULTS THAT MATTER

Throughout the festive season, Pinelands CID recorded many successful interventions, from preventing property crime and addressing public nuisance behaviour to supporting SAPS with arrests and evidence gathering. Regular briefings and weekly safety reports allowed the team to adapt operations based on emerging trends and hotspot analysis.

As showcased on the Pinelands CID Facebook page, these efforts translated into visible action on the ground – coordinated patrols, joint operations and rapid responses that reassured the community and reinforced Pinelands' reputation as a well-managed, safe suburb.

LOOKING AHEAD

The success of the Festive Season Safety Project highlights the value of partnership, planning and proactive engagement. Pinelands CID remains committed to building on these foundations, continually refining its approach to keep Pinelands safe, welcoming and resilient throughout the year. Safety is not a seasonal effort – it is a daily commitment, made stronger when the community and its partners work together.

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