

MID newsletter – May



"There's been a quantum leap technologically in our age, but unless there's another quantum leap in human relations, unless we learn to live in a new way towards one another, there will be a catastrophe."

– Albert Einstein

Over the past three weeks of extended lockdown and moving into Level 4, the board and I have noticed a palpable increase of tension and conflict, and with it a decrease in the standard of human relations – throughout South Africa and across the wider world. In our small community, this is manifesting in growing antagonism between local law enforcement and the SAPS, people bickering on social media platforms about the “surfers protest”, the rise of pro- and anti-lockdown factions with ensuing arguments (often in the form of vicious, personal attacks), and neighbours “informing” on neighbours, causing damage to the invaluable sense of community that we all cherish.

It's clear we've reached a point in lockdown where tensions are high, discontent is rife and tempers are flaring. It's understandable, considering the circumstances, but it does not have to be an inevitable stage of this process.

Times are going to get tougher and our only hope of getting through this is to take that quantum leap in human relations Einstein talks about. Now is the time for us to show respect towards each other – even when we don't agree – and to continue supporting each other, especially the most vulnerable in our community.

Debate is good, standing up for our rights is necessary, but so too is exercising our responsibilities, which includes actions for the greater good of the broader community, whether that's wearing a mask in public at all times or not wasting communal policing resources by trying to claim special rights for yourself alone.

I'm a grumpy sceptic by nature, but even I believe that this crisis is an opportunity to change much that's wrong with the world. Let's please start with improving the way this community interacts with each other.

Peter Corbett

MID CHAIR

Homeless Returning to Muizenberg

The MID board has been closely monitoring developments regarding displaced and homeless people from Muizenberg, and regularly engaging with City of Cape Town (CoCT) officials and our ward councillor Aimee Kuhl. Following an online meeting with the board and City representatives on 5 May, the current situation is as follows:

1. Under Level 4, the City can no longer enforce peoples' stay at the temporary site in Strandfontein. All people at the site have been offered assistance with 2 options: either voluntarily stay at the site until 20 May and then be moved to available or newly created shelters; or be reunited with their families. The alternative option is to return to the streets.

2. Some have chosen to go back to the streets. Among them are around 15 people who have since come back to Muizenberg and are currently staying in Muizenberg Park. We have raised our concerns that this is not allowed under current lockdown regulations, but City has made it clear this now falls under the SAPS and LE mandate to enforce lockdown regulations. Therefore these are the authorities to whom you should report any violations of lockdown regulations.

3. Since the Strandfontein facility will close on 20 May, the remaining +/-25 homeless from Muizenberg (i.e. those who don't want to return to the streets) will be moved to smaller shelters near to where they were moved from. In some cases that will be to existing shelters, in other cases the Council has committed to creating new facilities. Muizenberg has no existing facility and so falls into the latter category.



MID has had longstanding plans to create a place of safety for homeless people in Muizenberg. We have some capital funds available to put towards it and aim to collaborate with Council to add value to any facility they create.

We have appealed to the City to work with us to fast-track this process as far as is legally possible and have received a positive response, in particular a commitment to identify a site ASAP. At the time of writing, we are awaiting further updates from the City and will communicate this via our Facebook page @MIDMuizenberg.

In the meantime, we are prepared to continue working with CAN wherever possible to alleviate problems arising from the pandemic. This might include some contribution to food security and assistance in preventing infection amongst the homeless.

Finally, we wish to appeal to residents NOT to give food or money directly to homeless people returning to the area. Please rather refer to the Muizenberg

Community Action Network (CAN), which will be running a soup kitchen (expected to open this week) and providing other basics through its network of volunteers.

The MID has been contributing funds to CAN and we urge residents with the means to make food or cash donations. CAN is also looking for volunteers to assist in feeding efforts.

To volunteer or donate, contact: 067 764 3329 / muizenbergcan@gmail.com



THE COMMUNITY KITCHEN AT BLUE BIRD NEEDS YOUR HELP!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

	KITCHEN CO-COORDINATORS		DOCUMENTING / PHOTOGRAPHING
	CHOPPERS		ADMIN
	COOKS		WASTE MANAGER
	SERVERS		HEALTH ADVISORS
	QUEUE BUDDIES (KEEP AN EYE ON SOCIAL DISTANCING, ASSIST WITH HELPING PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THE SET-UP)		SECURITY
	CLEANING		TIMETABLE MANAGEMENT
	DELIVERY		GRAPHIC DESIGNERS (FOR KITCHEN COMMUNICATIONS)

FIND US AT THE BLUE BIRD MARKET BETWEEN 12 AND 1PM.

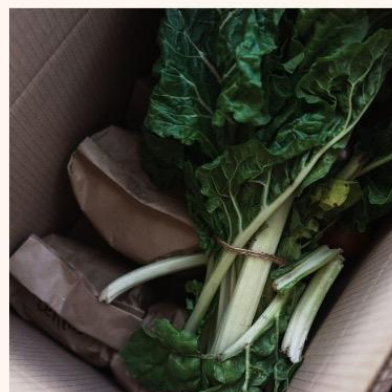


MID and CAN Co-operation

We would like to once again show our appreciation to the many volunteers of Muizenberg CAN, and give our thanks to everyone who has made donations to this hardworking collective. MID has contributed funding towards CAN's feeding scheme for vulnerable households within Muizenberg and we are in advanced talks on further collaborations, including assisting with plans to establish a community food garden as a long-term food security initiative.

SOLIDARITY BOXES

Support Muizenberg families in need of food



Snap here to pay

SnapScan

First National Bank
Account: Creating Change NPC
Account number: 62741789690
SWIFT code: FIRNZAJJ
Reference: Muiz food

(Donations managed via Amava Oluntu)



There are a growing number of vulnerable households in Muizenberg and these will increase as the economic hardships of the lockdown take their toll. Unfortunately, we are aware of several reports of “scammers” preying on well-meaning people, claiming poverty and asking for food vouchers, electricity vouchers and even cash to be sent directly to them.

As such, we strongly urge anyone able to assist with monetary or other donations to donate via CAN, which will ensure your donation lands up in the right hands.

To donate, contact: 067 764 3329 / muizenbergcan@gmail.com

MID Engages With SAPS

The MID board has noted with concern the many reports and allegations of police officers misinterpreting national Disaster Regulations and demonstrating an inability or unwillingness to use discretion when enforcing lockdown regulations. This is resulting in seemingly unnecessary (and possibly unlawful) punitive action against law-abiding citizens, including arrests, intimidation and/or fines.

The MID board has written to the Muizenberg SAPS Station Commander asking him to urgently address this increasingly antagonistic situation and we are now awaiting a response.



In the interim, we would like to appeal to all residents in Muizenberg to familiarise themselves with the current lockdown regulations and to adhere to them. We also urge residents, when asking questions of the police if reprimanded, to be calm and polite so as to avoid antagonising police officers, thus risking an escalation perhaps leading to unnecessary arrests.

In the interim, we have obtained initial legal advice that if you are detained for lockdown related regulations, and you believe this to be overzealous or unlawful: **Do NOT pay an admission of guilt fine.** This will result in a criminal record and potentially hinder any further action you may be able to take.

As soon as we have received further communication from Muizenberg SAPS, we will revert. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page @MIDMuizenberg for latest updates.

CCTV Camera Update

In April's newsletter we announced that the board has approved the CCTV system as set out in the 2020 budget. This will see the installation of 42 cameras at 19 points, giving extensive coverage of the MID area, all monitored 24/7 by a state-of-the-art control room with real-time radio communication to patrollers.



We have now taken delivery of the camera equipment and hope to commence with the installation process shortly. All that remains is for the final few home owners to give their consent to erect poles or brackets on their properties and then schedule a date to start. That whole process should take about a month.

Street Cleaning & Refuse Removal

The MID cleaning staff remain on a non-regular schedule, but is still being carried out, albeit on a less regular basis. The MID Ops Manager continues to monitor the streets and call in cleaning teams when necessary. Unfortunately for the next week or so our entire team are in self isolation as one of them was inadvertently in contact with an infected person. We apologise if things aren't up to scratch during that period.



MID has received several complaints around refuse collection, or the lack thereof. We have urgently addressed this with our ward councillor, Aimee Khul, who has committed to prioritising this with relevant council departments.

Please report uncollected bins and/or street cleaning issues to the MID Operations manager either by whatsapp or SMS to 082 463 1525, or by email to ops@mid.org.za.

Deadline For Comments On By-Law Amendments

The City of Cape Town is calling for public comment on proposed amendments to its Streets, Public Places and the Prevention of Noise Nuisances By-law.

The by-law relates to the management of streets and public places, noise nuisances and other incidental matters on all properties within Cape Town, enforcement of which is carried out by Law Enforcement officers.



The most notable changes include:

- ⇒ **Instruction to leave the area:** An authorised official may instruct a person who is in contravention of a by-law to leave and remain out of an area where a contravention taken place;
- ⇒ **Inspections:** An authorised official may enter or inspect any premises or business where there are reasonable grounds for believing that a provision of any by-law has been contravened, or where there has been an allegation that

a provision of a by-law has been contravened;

Search and seizure: Without a warrant, an officer may stop, enter and search any vessel, vehicle, premises or person for a prima facie (at face value) offence in terms of a by-law occurring;

⇒ **Impounding:** An officer may, without a warrant, seize and impound any property, including but not limited to, an item, goods, equipment, vessel or a vehicle which is concerned or is on reasonable grounds believed to be concerned with the commission of an offence in terms of a by-law. The city may sell, donate or dispose of the impounded item if it is forfeited by the court and a person does not claim the item.

Please view the full draft amendments here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc3qccn5>

To comment before the 17 May deadline:

- ⇒ Email: lawenforcement@capetown.gov.za
- ⇒ Written submission to Leon Wentzel, Law Enforcement Department, Omniforum Building, 94 Van Riebeeck Street, Kuilsriver 7580
- ⇒ Online at www.capetown.gov.za/haveyoursay

Update on Draft Proposal For Informal Trading

In short, there is no “new news” due to the extension of the lockdown.

To recap, the City of Cape Town has put forward a draft proposal for 79 informal bays to be dotted in and around Muizenberg (including 40 trading bays in Atlantic Road alone). MID’s request to have the public meeting in March rescheduled due to lockdown was granted, but despite our staunch objections CoCT officials would not extend the 31 March deadline for written comments/objections. However, we are assured that when the public meeting takes place, members of the public will be given an opportunity to submit written comments/objections after the meeting, which we assume will be scheduled when lockdown regulations allow.

Until then, please familiarise yourselves with the Draft Plan via this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/rync27m>