

RICHWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

INTRODUCTION

1. **RNW** must operate as the eyes and ears of the community it serves and must cooperate with the South African Police Service, (SAPS).
2. **RNW** must assist SAPS and other safety and security services and partners to safeguard the local community and their property, to manage and control crime prevention initiatives and to discourage crime in the area.
3. This Code of Conduct is binding on all members of the **RNW** and members must pledge their adherence to this Code, ***failing which the member's membership will be terminated.***
4. This Code of Conduct regulates the relationship between members of the **RNW** and members of the community and promotes exemplary conduct by members whilst they are serving the community as a member of the **RNW**. Any member found to be disrespecting a member of the public at any given time will be subjected to a disciplinary hearing with possible dismissal.
5. By pledging adherence to this Code of Conduct a member acknowledges that he or she is fully aware of the risks involved due to the nature of the task.

MEANING OF WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

6. In this Code of Conduct, a word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Community Safety Regulations, 2016, made in terms of the Western Cape Community Safety Act, 2013 (Act 3 of 2013) has the same meaning assigned to it in those regulations or Act.

CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

7. A member must at all times act in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, and must –
 - (a) act in a manner that will uphold and promote the aims and objectives of **RNW**;
 - (b) respect and protect the dignity and rights of every person in the neighbourhood, including the right to free movement;
 - (c) act within his or her rights as a private person, and not beyond those rights;
 - (d) serve the community in the area in an unbiased, apolitical and impartial manner in order to create confidence in **RNW**, and build unity in a safe neighbourhood;
 - (e) refrain, as much as is reasonably possible, from placing him- or herself and fellow members or the police at risk; and
 - (f) act in a non-violent manner and may not take the law into his or her own hands.
8. A member may not–
 - (a) discriminate unfairly against any person on the basis of language, age, gender, religion, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, disability, political persuasion, or any other constitutionally-protected orientation;
 - (b) conduct him or herself in a manner that will bring the **RNW** into disrepute;

(c) disseminate or divulge any confidential or privileged information obtained as a result of his or her membership or obtained whilst on formal patrol, unless it is essential to do so to help to protect a member of **RNW** or community.

(d) exploit his or her membership of **RNW** for his or her own personal advantage or benefit;

(e) accept any payment, commission or gratuity in connection with his or her membership of the **RNW** except after being duly authorised to do so by **RNW EXCO**; and

(f) be in possession of any dangerous weapon under circumstances which makes him or her guilty of a contravention of section 3(1) of the Dangerous Weapon Act, 2013 (Act 15 of 2013); and

9. If a member is convicted of a sexual offence or any crime involving violence or dishonesty during his or her membership, **RNW** will terminate the member's membership in terms of procedures provided in the founding document of **RNW**.

CONDUCT AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS PATROLLING

10. When a member is patrolling as a member of **RNW** the member must –

(a) when possible, alert the SAPS in the area when the PATROLLER will be patrolling;

(b) strive to work in partnership, whenever possible, with the members of SAPS, municipal police service or law enforcement agencies with regard to crime prevention in the area;

(c) obey all lawful instructions issued by members of the services mentioned in paragraph (b) above;

(d) carry the identification cards issued in accordance with regulation 4(5) of the Community Safety Regulations;

(e) be punctual, reliable and competent in all duties as a **RNW** member;

(f) act in the best interests of individual residents, tenants or owners of immovable property or with other relevant interests in the area and **RNW**, except in circumstances beyond their ability, or determined by personal safety;

(g) act in accordance with official handbooks of the Department of Community Safety developed for **RNW** members, including protocols for incident management, crime scene management and best practice in every circumstance;

(h) display commitment to the best possible functioning of **RNW** and the promotion of healthy inter-personal relations; and

(i) undertake to report any individual, vehicle or situation suspected of being connected to crime to the control room and, where necessary, to SAPS.

11. A member's assistance to **RNW** is voluntary and therefore when a member is using his or her private vehicle during the assistance, neither SAPS nor **RNW** can be held responsible for any damage to private vehicles caused during the rendering of the assistance.

12. Members must familiarise themselves with regard to the law regarding the rights of private persons to arrest or perform searches, including the minimum use of force and must at all times comply with the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977, (Act 51 of 1977).

13. Members should rather report suspected criminal behaviour to the police before they personally attempt to perform an arrest.

14. No intimidation in whatever form may be used against any individuals in any neighbourhood where such patrols take place;

15. No form of vigilantism will be accepted;

16. Where possible, **RNW** must strive to work in partnership with the Community Police Forum and Sub-Forum of the area; and

17. Where possible, the Chairperson, vice or Co-ordinator of **RNW**, must regularly attend the sector meetings held by SAPS and share information at the sector meetings regarding the crime situation in the area.

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

18. A member who is in breach of this Code of Conduct may lose his or her membership in terms of disciplinary procedures instituted by the **RNW** as provided in the founding document of **RNW**.

MEMBER NAME: _____ **SIGN:** _____

SECRETARY NAME: _____ **SIGN:** _____

CHAIRMAN: _____ **SIGN:** _____

SIGNED AT RICHWOOD ON: _____