**SUNNYDALE NHW
CODE OF CONDUCT
2018**

**1. Aims and Objectives**

* To nurture a sense of unity, dedication and good neighbourly relations among the residents of Sunnydale.
* To serve as a watchdog for the community and the local police services, thereby assisting the local police to safeguard the community against criminal activities and strive for a safe and secure environment.
* To provide a channel through which local communities can play a meaningful role in crime prevention.
* To create public awareness with regard to safety, crime prevention and protection of families and their property.
* To encourage the community to work in close co-operation with the South African Police Services (SAPS) and other structures such as local authorities who are involved in law enforcement.
* To unite a diverse residency in creating a stable and crime free environment.

**2. Indemnity**

* SNW is not a legal person and functions within the guidelines provided by and set out in the Western Cape Provincial Constitution and Code of Conduct for Neighbourhood Watch Structures.
* An acknowledgement to this effect must be signed by all members of SNW clearly indemnifying the Neighbourhood Watch Structure.
* The acknowledgement must clearly state that SNW is a voluntary association.

2.1 All registered members of SNW must sign this Protocol before any member takes part in any foot or vehicle patrol on behalf of SNW.

**3. Liability**

* SNW is not a legal person and as such does not have powers of whatever nature which might be in law to act or be acted upon.
* All individual members act in their own capacity as individuals and liability will be in that capacity.
* SNW will not be responsible for civil and or criminal actions or omissions that are perpetrated by a member of SNW nor responsible for civil and or criminal actions or omissions against its members.
* All and any criminal and civil actions that are instituted against a member of SNW will be against the member concerned and not SNW.

3.1 Any damage or injury to any member of SNW or his or her property when such member is acting as a member of SNW in whatsoever capacity shall subject to claims against third parties be the sole and absolute responsibility of the member.

3.2 SNW carries no insurances whatsoever for members or their families or dependants.

3.3 Members of SNW must take all such steps as they chose to establish their own legal position as to their personal/ accident/medical or vehicle insurances and assurances.

**4. Conformance and Conduct**

SNW must operate within the framework of the law.

* SNW members will have powers similar to that of any other citizen to perform a citizen’s arrest and the requirements set out in the Criminal Procedure Act No. 51 of 1977 will be adhered to and complied with at all times.

5.1 Members of SNW have the same rights as any member of the public to arrest a perpetrator of an offence or of any person reasonably suspected of being about to commit an offence.

5.1.1 Only minimum force may be used to secure an arrest as defined in Criminal Procedure Act No. 51 of 1977.

* All members of SNW must at all times act in a non-violent manner. No member may take the law into his or her own hands irrespective of circumstances.
* No member of SNW will display racism, sexism or any other form of discrimination towards any other member and any other person.
* No member shall carry any weapon perceived to be dangerous that could inflict serious bodily harm or damage to property. This includes dangerous weapons as defined by law when patrolling. Only weapons for the sole purpose of self-defence as approved by the Provincial Commissioner, SAPS – Western Cape may be used.
* All members with **firearms** taken on any patrol shall declare these to the local SAPS Crime Prevention Officer before going on patrol.
* Should a member of SNW be found guilty of a criminal offence committed when the member is operating formally as a SNW member, SNW will take such disciplinary actions as are considered appropriate by the Committee and will issue a public statement regarding its action.
* Members of SNW shall not divulge any confidential or privileged information that they may have acquired as a result of their membership of SNW to any unauthorized persons in any form, verbally or written.
* No member of SNW may exploit his or her membership for personal advantage or benefit.
* Members of SNW must at all times act in a manner that will uphold and promote the aims and objectives of SNW.
* Members of SNW must not misuse SNW media platforms or radio communication for purposes unrelated to the core objectives of SNW.

6.1 Details of any **firearms or weapons** carried during a patrol must be provided to SAPS prior to commencing a patrol.

6.1.1 Members of SNW are permitted to carry and use high intensity torches up to ten million candlepower.

6.1.2 Pepper spray or CS gas emitters and electric stun guns are permitted but may only be used in self-defence when physical damage has been committed or is reasonably expected to be committed.

6.2 Members of SNW are not expected or required to confront any persons of any race creed or gender whether they are suspected of being about to commit a crime or having committed a crime. The duty of members on patrol is to report any suspicious person or vehicle in the neighbourhood.

6.2.1 SNW members shall withdraw from any scene or incident forthwith upon any violence being used or threatened, for their own safety and shall not confront the perpetrators.

6.3 NOTHING herein contained shall restrict the rights of any member as an individual to defend him or herself using reasonable force so to do if faced with a situation where the member or any other person on duty with such member is subjected to actual or reasonably anticipated violence.

6.4 Any incident shall forthwith be recorded briefly in writing with detail of time; place; number of suspects or perpetrators; description of perpetrators by age, size and colour and clothing followed by a brief description of the incident.

6.5 No member of SNW shall release any statement to any media on any matters concerning SNW unless the content of any statement has been agreed by the SAPS Crime Prevention Officer. If approval is not given within seven days of submitting the proposed statement the member is at liberty to release such statement.

6.6 Members of SNW may place such information as they chose on the SNW website subject to compliance with the SNW constitution.

6.7 Further guidelines and information is provided in the document titled *SNW Controller Patroller Brief Guidelines.pdf*

**7. Communication**

7.1 As a registered member of SNW I agree not to transfer or divulge to any other person outside of SNW, by transfer of information to another social media site or verbally, without the permission of the Chief Co-ordinator of SNW, any information provided to me via the closed SNW social media groups to which I have been granted access, namely SNW Facebook and website pages, SNW Emergencies Groups, or any other group owned and controlled by SNW.

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**SUNNYDALE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CODE OF CONDUCT**

(When completed, please return this section to SNHW via a letterbox drop off at 40 Sunnydale Road
 or 11 Partridge Street or WhatsApp 0603290945 to collect when it’s convenient for you to do so.

I (full names) ………………………………………………………………………………………………..…

Residing at ………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Hereby acknowledge that I have read, fully understand and will abide by the rules and conditions of my membership of the Sunnydale Neighbourhood Watch.

Signature: ………………………………………………………… Date: ………………………………………