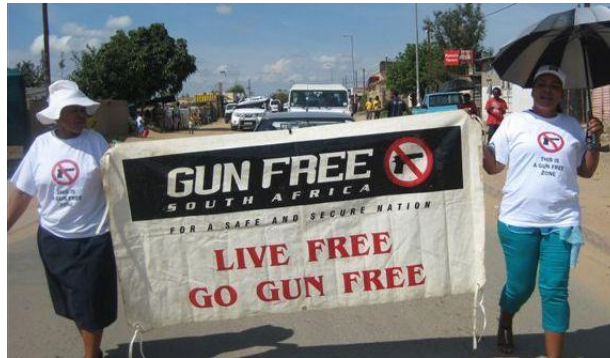


Gun Free South Africa “Motorcade for safety” Diepsloot 27 November 2010

After months of planning meetings an excited group of participants assembled at the Diepsloot Extension 4 Taxi Rank at 8am on 27 November 2010. Participants were from a range of CBOs, NGOs and other community groupings including - Diepsloot Liquor Traders against Crime, Batho Pele, SANCA CPF, JMPD, SAPS, CDW and the Pastors Forum.



After distributing the bright orange Patroller T-shirts to members of the CPF, the group assembled and Pastor Snowball opened the event with a prayer. Crime Line posters and pamphlets were handed out to the walking patrollers as well as displayed on the Motorcade vehicles.



Significantly, the Motorcade participants reflected a good gender balance – in line with the event’s tandem aim of highlighting **16 Days against Gender Violence**. Three of the seven Motorcade vehicles were driven by women – with female representation from SAPS, Metro Police and GFSA. The other vehicles included representatives from the Joburg Fire Department, Diepsloot Liquor Traders against Crime, the Pastor’s Forum and SANCA.



The Pastor’s Forum provided a sound system and loud hailer to enable the message of the Motorcade to ring out loudly throughout Diepsloot. The key messages that were communicated through the Motorcade included the following:

- Collective action is more effective than separate communities or individuals acting alone
- Coordinated partnerships are necessary across all sectors to develop holistic and comprehensive responses to safety

- Safety is everyone’s responsibility, and every individual has the capacity to make a personal contribution to building a peaceful and nonviolent society
- Taking responsibility for safety has a multiplier effect
- Responsibility for security should be shared by the government, police and citizens
- Constructive, community oriented, grassroots action is key to promoting safe and secure communities

The Motorcade was a visible display of cross-sector collaboration and encouraged the unarmed majority of Diepsloot residents to speak out against gun violence and other crime. A key part of the Motorcade message was the need to report crime via Crime Line.



The route of the Motorcade was decided upon during the many planning meetings and was selected very deliberately. We travelled through the most hard to reach, and therefore most dangerous areas of Diepsloot. We travelled through 5 different extensions, stopping in each extension to interact with community members and communicate our message.



The Motorcade ended at the Diepsloot Mall with the climax of the day being the declaration of the Mall as a Gun Free Zone. The Centre Management gave a brief speech to the crowd and stressed their commitment to a gun free and violence free shopping experience for their customers.



At the conclusion of the Motorcade all participants joined together for a celebratory meal. This meal was an important part of the event as it served as a time to celebrate the value of collective action, and it also put funds into the community. A group of unemployed young women prepared the meal as their way of supporting the Motorcade.

All in all, the Motorcade was an important example of the resourcefulness of communities and illustrated the willingness of ordinary community members to get involved in promoting safety.

The Motorcade was covered by Radio 702 as well as Soweto TV.