



THE EILAND



ISSUE: 12

AUGUST 2024

Letter from the editor:

As the days are starting to get warmer and longer, we are reminded of how quickly time flies. During the past month PECID has seen a huge increase in the amount of unsecured premises. An increase of more than 100% was noted against July months recording. This increase comes despite our efforts via the weekly newsletter to remind businesses to ensure that their properties are secured at all times. Please remember that any criminal is always looking for a risk-free opportunity and by leaving your property unsecured, this opportunity is created.

Overall we have noted a decrease in crime in the area but that should not put us at peace as the summer comes with its own problems. Our PECID team of patrollers has increased their patrols with the aim of removing the homeless from our area before they start to establish places to stay. The new shelters that have been opened by the City of Cape Town allows for shelter for all these homeless people and they therefore have no reason to live amongst the buildings in Paarden Eiland.

As part of our efforts to improve our security service to the community, we have started investing in Thermal Cameras which is used at night to monitor movement in the dark areas of Paarden Eiland. Several of these cameras will be installed over the course of the next couple of months. This will also allow us to capture anyone who wants to dump waste illegally after hours as is sometimes the case.

Regards

Chris Matthee – CID Manager PECID

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**EXCELLERATE
SERVICES**



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
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FACEBOOK POST

On the evening of 29 July while the Excellerate Armed Response Officer was busy doing a general patrol through Paarden Eiland Road, he noticed a suspicious male that frequents the area regularly. The male was walking in Paarden Eiland Road with a black bucket in his hands and when the AR Officer approached the male, he threw the bucket into the bushes and ran into the direction of Woodstock. The Armed Response Officer decided to search the bucket and inside it he found brand new shower heads and accessories for bathrooms to the value of thousands of Rands. The following day, we received the news of a break in, and the targeted company decided to open a case. A couple of days later the AR recognised the male walking again in Paarden Eiland, this time the officer had reason to arrest the suspect. We would like to thank the Company affected for making a case as that is the only way we can get rid of the criminals in the area for good. We would also like to thank the Armed Response Officer for excellent work and observation.



On Saturday 10 July at about 15h15, the PECID patrol vehicle was flagged down by a truck driver who informed the officers that there is a male busy stealing cables from a truck in Auckland street. The Patrol Officers proceeded to approach the male at which stage he started running away from them. The Officers gave chase and managed to arrest the suspect in Carlisle Street. During the arrest that was made, the stolen cables was found in his possession and SAPS was contacted to come and remove the suspect to Maitland SAPS where a case was opened against him.



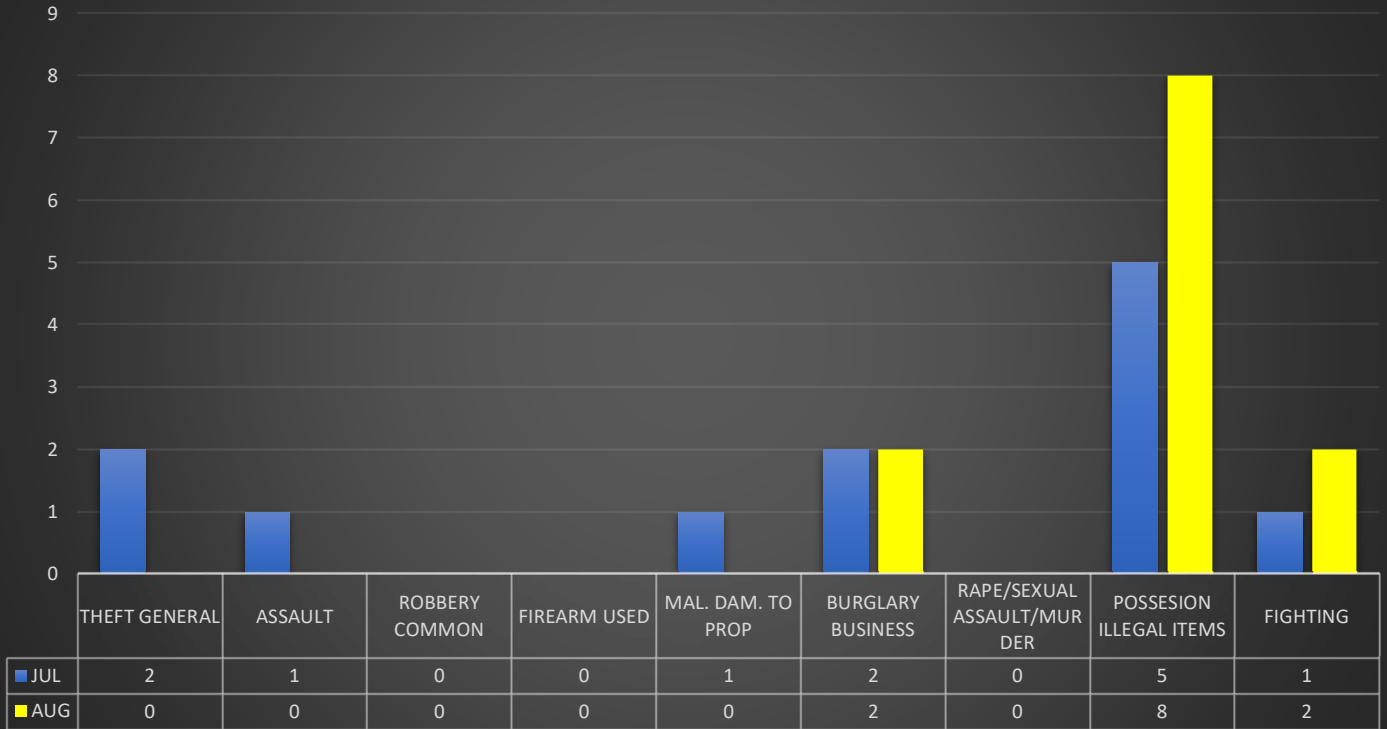
This weekend the PECID Officers were busy with general patrols when they found three suspicious males, one in Transvaal Street at 08h00 Sunday morning and the other two in Neptune Street at 00h45 on Monday morning. In both cases the officers asked the suspicious males to empty their bags. To the officer's surprise, they found several dangerous weapons which could also be used to break into properties. The officers warned the males in both cases, not to return to the area again.

Please have a look at the calibre of items that was confiscated. Items such as scissors and cutters should never end up in a waste bin as they are used for the wrong reason if they are found by the scrap searchers. Please take care when disposing of items such as these.

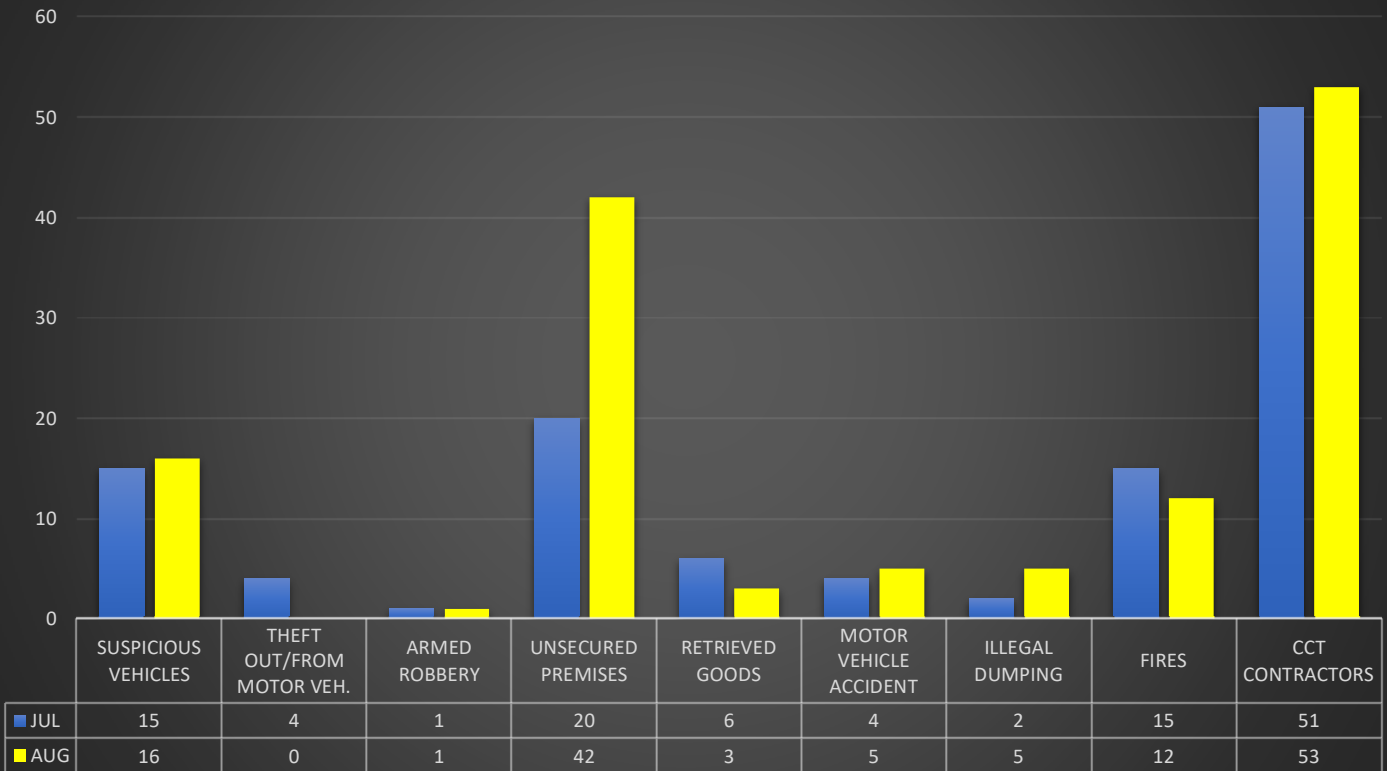


INCIDENT BREAKDOWN

JULY/AUGUST COMPARED 1



JULY/AUGUST COMPARED 2



SAPS CRIME STATISTICS – CASES OPENED FOR AUGUST 2024



	0	THEFT OUT OF MOTOR VEHICLE
	0	THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE
	2	BURGLARY BUSINESS
	0	ARMED ROBBERY (KNIFE)



EXCELLERATE SERVICES



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CITY OF CAPE TOWN BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT TEAM

STAFF MANAGEMENT

We are pleased to announce that Zoarvlei Nature Reserve has secured the services of two Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) employees on contract for the next year.

The two EPWP employees, Athenkosi Stokwe and Busisiwe Dube, are no strangers to Zoarvlei. Many of you may remember them from their previous work on the reserve, where they demonstrated exceptional dedication and diligence in every task they undertook. Their commitment to conservation and hard work made them an easy choice for rejoining our team. Athenkosi and Busisiwe will be assisting with a wide range of essential activities that are crucial to the reserve's upkeep. These tasks include regular faunal surveys, infrastructure maintenance, patrolling, and litter management, among others. Their efforts will help maintain the high standards of conservation that Zoarvlei is known for, ensuring that the reserve remains a safe and welcoming space for both wildlife and visitors alike. We are thrilled to have Athenkosi and Busisiwe back with us and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will undoubtedly have on the reserve over the coming year.



EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE

Zoarvlei Management would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Paarden Eiland City Improvement District (PECID) for their generous donation of an external hard drive to assist with the administrative needs of the reserve.

The acquisition of this hard drive comes at a crucial time, as our desktop computer was becoming increasingly slow due to the accumulation of important files and documents. The new hard drive will enable us to back up and securely store these essential files. As well as improving the computer's performance, the hard drive will play a vital role in safeguarding critical documents and legislation that are essential to the management and operation of Zoarvlei. We are grateful to PECID for recognizing our needs and providing this valuable support.

BRUSHILE REMOVAL

On August 8, 2024, Zoarvlei Nature Reserve teamed up with the Paarden Eiland City Improvement District (PECID) for a significant cleanup operation at the end of Milner Road in Paarden Eiland. The focus of the effort was the removal of a large brush pile of cleared alien vegetation.

The brush pile, consisting of invasive species such as tree mallow, wild mustard, and Port Jackson, had been accumulating as part of our regular alien vegetation management. These species, which pose a serious threat to the local ecosystem, were cleared by contractors organized by Zoarvlei management. However, the sheer size of the brush pile required additional resources to manage its



removal. In response, PECID stepped in to assist, providing workers from their Environmental Team to help with the task. Their efforts were instrumental in clearing the large brush pile. Although this was the largest brush pile, there are still more piles to be removed as part of our ongoing efforts. We are optimistic that our continued collaboration with PECID will allow us to address these challenges effectively.



STORMWATER CLEARANCE

We are pleased to report that the Roads and Infrastructure Management Department (City of Cape Town) has initiated essential maintenance work at the major stormwater outlets leading into the main water body of Zoarvlei Nature Reserve. These outlets, crucial for managing water flow in the area, had become severely blocked by dense growths of bulrushes (*Typha capensis*) and common reeds (*Phragmites australis*). The blockages caused by these reed species posed a significant risk of flooding to the residential and industrial areas surrounding Zoarvlei. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the site manager of Zoarvlei met with the senior foreman of the Roads and Infrastructure Management Department in early August to develop a plan for removing the reeds. The focus of the discussion was on minimizing damage to existing infrastructure and, more importantly, protecting the reserve’s endangered wetland vegetation. The maintenance operation has been running throughout August and is now nearly complete. The efforts have not only restored proper water flow through the stormwater outlets but also helped prevent potential flooding risks in the neighbouring communities. As the operation wraps up, we look forward to continued collaboration with Roads Department to ensure the ongoing protection and management of our reserve’s natural resources.



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SPOTTED IN PAARDEN EILAND / ZOARVLEI

The Hartlaub's Gull

Commonly known as the Seagull, the scientific name for this specific specie is *Chroicocephalus Hartlaubi* a member of the Laridae family of birds. With their white, grey and black coloured feathers, they are robust birds with a bill that is stout and hooked with webbed feet and rounded tails. They also have a very distinctive “calling” sound that is known as the “choking call” as he leans forward, head down and heaving upward as he calls. They live mainly on the coastline and wetlands close to the coast. They are resourceful, intelligent and inquisitive. They sleep in large numbers on open ground where they can keep a beady eye out for foxes, hawks, falcons and other predators.



Seagulls will often stand on 1 leg while they are sleeping, they do this to conserve their body heat. They are expert food thieves and will try almost anything food they encounter. The colonies can be as large as 1000 birds or more and they will nest anywhere on open ground. The lifespan of the seagull is 20 years, and they mate for life, the male will return to the colony, where he was born to find a mate. The eggs are laid from early May onwards, producing 2/3 eggs which takes 3 weeks to hatch, with June month bringing the new chicks into the world.

They grow very quickly but don't leave the nest for another 5 – 6 weeks. Seagulls have been known to attack humans when they get too close to their nests as they are extremely protective during the nesting season and getting too close can cause possible injuries to humans. Paarden Eiland is no stranger to these highly adaptable birds that frequent and nest within our area. Next time you spot seagulls flying or sitting around, be careful, they might just grab your lunch out of your hand!



EXCELLERATE SERVICES SAFETY TIPS

SAFETY TIPS TO PREVENT BURGLARIES

1. Ensure that your property is secured properly. This includes checking all locks, gates, doors, windows and roller shutters.
2. Ensure there are no gaps in your fence or perimeter wall or unintentional points of access to your home which may need additional security.
3. Make sure that all bushes or trees close to your walls, gates and fences are trimmed, to avoid the possibility of intruders hiding behind them or using them to access your property.
4. Adequate lighting around the perimeter of your house acts as a good deterrent
5. Connecting outdoor lights to timers and motion sensors act as an additional deterrent.
6. Have an alarm installed by a reputable security company with armed response.
7. The key to effective security lies in being able to detect a potential intruder before they gain access. Adding detection beams and sensors of electrical fences vastly contributes to property security
8. Ensure that your alarm is in working order. Business and property owners should test their alarms at least once a month and should the system require servicing this should be arranged as early as possible.
9. Please ensure that all the key holder information is available and ensure that key holders are available and able to come out to the property should the alarm activate, and checking be required.
10. Don't leave ladders, spades or tools outside as these can be excellent break-in tools.
11. Ensure that remote controls for automatic gates and garage doors are not left lying around.
12. Always be alert to vehicles or persons following you into your entrance or the parking area.

DEALING WITH CASH IN YOUR BUSINESS

1. Alternate the days and times on which you deposit cash.
2. Never make your bank visits public, even to people close to you.
3. Do not openly display the money you are depositing while you are standing in the bank queue.
4. Avoid carrying money bags, briefcases or openly displaying your deposit receipt book.
5. It's advisable to identify another branch nearby that you can visit to ensure that your banking pattern is not easily recognisable or detected.
6. If the amount of cash you are regularly depositing is increasing as your business grows, consider using the services of a cash management company.
7. Refrain from giving wages to your contract or casual labourers in full view of the public, rather make use of wage accounts that can be provided by your bank.
8. Refrain from driving to the bank in your company branded vehicle on a typical "pay day".
9. Consider arranging for electronic transfers of wages to your contract workers or casual labourers personal bank accounts or using the "cash send" facility.

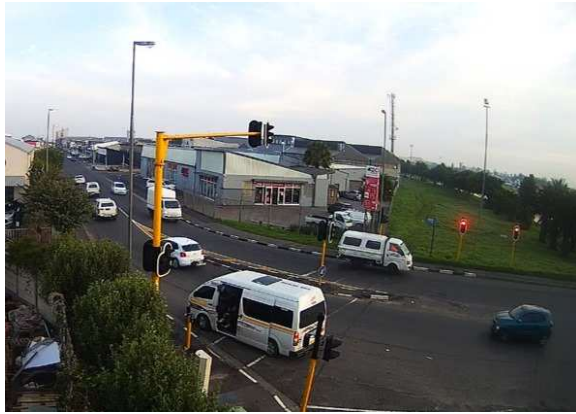


PHOTOS

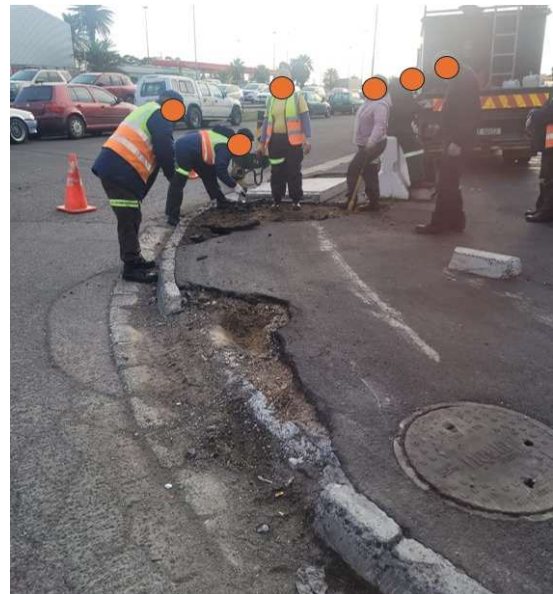


Law Enforcement taking care of By-law infringements of which several are committed in our area daily. Drinking in public, making fires in public and illegal parking is just some of the issues they have to deal with daily.





The above is images of the taxis breaking the traffic laws and endangering the publics lives. This situation has been reported to the Traffic Department on several occasions and although they have tried to stop this from happening, the drivers carry on with no respect for the law. PECID will continue to monitor the situation.



City of Cape Town departments busy cleaning up and repairing damages in Paarden Eiland. The past month have seen a drastic increase in the work that they have been doing.





Homeless and displaced people making fires and leaving rubbish around the area

