



**-THE NATIONAL PEACE COMMISSION-
-THE CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES-
-ATTENTION: DR ANTON VISSER: 29.9.2023**



Contact Details: **THE CONGRESS OF SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLE**
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-R.E: CITY OF CAPE TOWN REQUEST FOR CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES-

Dear Dr Visser and the Cape Town City Manager – Mr Lungelo Mbandazayo

This is respectfully submitted as a response to your public request for Civilian Oversight Committees for the City of Cape Town. It has been refreshing and encouraging to have city officials requesting this essential oversight in 2023 and we sincerely believe that we can assist this call for collaborative cooperation. As Chairman of this 2019 National Peace Commission, it is also respectfully submitted that we can add value to your Department of Safety and Security and have many years of research, community engagement and experience in all areas of prevention of crime. In addition to this, all Functions of the Committee and the Profile of the Applicants have all been taken into account and as President of a South Coast Business Chamber the Role of the Business Chamber is attached.

Having served on many Community Policing Forums since 2008, it has also been important to engage with the Premiers, Mayors and City managers and many years have been spent in assisting the Local Economic and the Spatial Development from Port Edward to Durban Municipality and the other 5 municipal regions within this Ugu Coastal Corridor and Eastern Seaboard. These duties and responsibilities have been embraced and experience is important in these areas of law enforcement and policing. There is a desperate need for law and order, the rule of law and justice within the judicial system. Community Policing Forums and Business against Crime is essential.

This submission is respectfully provided to engage with your City Management and City Council and Department of Safety and Security in order to assist you in this search for suitable and capable Applicants for the duties and responsibilities as highlighted in your public request. We have a National Network of personnel in all provinces; and these areas include: Eastern Cape in East London and Port Elizabeth; Transkei and Eastern Cape; Free State and Gauteng – in Johannesburg, Tshwane and Soweto; and Kwa Zulu-Natal. They also include Limpopo - and in Mpumalanga in Nelspruit, Secunda and Witbank and also in Northern Cape, Western Cape and the North West Province. It is sincerely believed that we can assist in your quest for the suitable Civilian Oversight Committees.

Having served on the National Peace Commission for the past four (5) years - and also having gained invaluable experience in working with the various municipalities the Functions of the Civilian Oversight Committees are in fact clearly understood - and the role we can play is in the area of personnel that are suitably qualified and also experienced in those areas that are mentioned in the **Profile of Applicants** Section – and specifically related to:

1. The relevant Diploma or Degree in those fields of policing, crime prevention - public administration.
2. Persons with experience in law or related studies; and with research capacity that can assist in this.
3. Persons with experience in informing crime prevention and law enforcement initiatives - with a City.
4. Persons who have been involved in law enforcement and also that prevention of crime - in country.
5. Persons in Cape Town who have consistently displayed a keen interest in crime prevention actions.
6. Persons who have had experience with law enforcement within the city and in your Cape Province.
7. Persons who can also monitor and implement policies and directives - issued by your City Manager.

This submission is respectfully provided to open up communication with your City Management and the City Council and assist you with your praiseworthy endeavours and to secure the personnel that are capable, best suited to perform these functions and improve the standards of law enforcement and crime prevention in the Western Cape and at a National Level. The Civilian Oversight Committees are essential for their protection and defence of lives, property and human rights. Having lived in Kwa Zulu-Natal we experienced civil unrest in 2021 and this region has been a battlefield and warzone due to the xenophobic violence during both 2008 and 2015/16

The National Peace Commission was established in 2019 in response to the need for peace in South Africa and it is important for dialogue and communication; that addresses these challenges, threats and dangers to economy; political stability and investor confidence. Private and Public Sector engagement is not only necessary but it is so essential for socio-economic growth and development. We have the advantage of more than 34 years of public sector engagement and working with religious and traditional leaders and Captains of Industry and mind leaders in commerce and the 34 sectors of the economy. We also understand what happens when the economy is put in jeopardy through load-shedding and the Covid 19 period that commenced in March of 2020. We need to assist.

The Western Cape and Kwa Zulu-Natal have been popular tourist destinations and they also rely on growth and development in all sectors of industry. The importance of law and order and rule of law and the justice system is never underestimated or understated and the country needs capable and suitable personnel to protect and also serve their communities. We have had many years of engagement with the security industry and also with **PSIRA** – the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority – as well as with Cluster Commanders in the SAPS and SADF.

The National Peace Commission was also established in South Africa between 1991 and 1993 before the Codesa – Conference for Democracy and the 1992 Referendum and the traditional and religious leadership and political parties played an important role in the peace-keeping process - during these difficult times. The National Peace Commission established the Regional Peace Committees and Local Peace Committees and assisted to control all civil and political unrest and the maintenance and enforcement of law and order was essential - during Codesa.

The Western Cape and Kwa Zulu-Natal have also been plagued with the increase in informal settlements and it is essential to deal with the more than 550 in Kwa Zulu-Natal and more than 900 in Gauteng and gang violence and tribal and political unrest are cause for serious concerns. We sincerely believe that your public request for these Civilian Oversight Committees is a positive step in the right direction and we need to find practical solutions to a multitude of challenges that exist in our country at a national, regional and local level. We have a value - to add.

The National Peace Commission had established more than 180 Regional Peace Commissions (**RPC's**) and more than 8 500 volunteers assisted in this rapid expansion between 1991 and 1993 and the Local Peace Commissions (**LPC's**) played a pivotal and central role in conflict resolutions during the political and tribal events and were all welcomed by community leadership and the SAPS and SADF personnel. We have established a 7-man **NPS** and this National Peace Secretariat has been active in providing research, critical thinking - and all strategic planning.

The Western Cape and Kwa Zulu-Natal have been identified as being in desperate need for pro-active growth or development in the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority – **PSIRA** – and we have taken this initiative to a professional level of engagement and work with all sectors of this industry. It makes absolute common sense that the City Councils, City Management and their Safety and Security Departments work together to achieve a best practices service to the wider community. We have had the benefit of valuable research and built a sound network on coalition partners to assist us in achieving all these needs and purpose-driven aims - and objectives.

The National Peace Commission is committed and dedicated to provide the Civil Oversight Commissions and all committees to improve the quality of services to the wider communities that are in need of law and order and a rule of law and a functioning justice system. We have engaged the National Prosecuting Authority and worked in the local, regional and national courts on Case Flow management – and in areas of collaborative and restorative justice. This has been extremely productive and public prosecutors and Court Management have embraced this.

Hoping that this meets with your favourable approval and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Dr Peter Munns – Chairman – National Peace Commission.

