



**CODE OF CONDUCT
OBSERVATORY NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.**

1. Members:

- 1.1. This code of conduct and the constitution is binding on the Observatory Neighbourhood Watch (ONW) structure and members.
- 1.2 The ONW structure and its members 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.
- 1.3 No member of the ONW structure will display racism, sexism, or any other form of discrimination towards any member and any other person.
- 1.4 The ONW structure will not allow any member to carry any weapons perceived to be dangerous, or that could inflict serious bodily harm and/or damage any property; when patrolling. Only weapons for the sole purpose of self-defense as approved by the Provincial Commissioner, South African Police Services-Western Cape may be used.
- 1.5 ONW members with firearms must declare them to the South African Police Services or the office of the neighbourhood watch as appointed by the resident station commissioner of the South African Police Services.
- 1.6 Should a member be found guilty of a criminal offence, the neighbourhood watch structure must respect the decision of the courts and immediately institute disciplinary measures as defined. The neighbourhood watch spokesperson will issue a public statement regarding its action.
- 1.7 Members may not divulge any confidential or privileged information that they may have acquired as a result of their membership of the neighbourhood watch structure.
- 1.8 The ONW Structure and its Executive Committee will mandate a member to address, and/or make public announcements, in matters pertaining to the neighbourhood watch structure.
- 1.9 Members found to be making public statements and/or addressing the media without the explicit authority duly mandating the member to act for and on behalf of the ONW Structure will be found guilty of a serious offence, resulting in the immediate suspension of the member pending expulsion subject to the merits of the matter. The ONW Executive Committee will, with immediate effect, rectify the matter and make a public statement in this regard.
- 1.10 No member may accept any payment, commission or gratuity in connection with his or her membership of the ONW structure, except after being duly authorized to do so by the ONW Executive Committee.
- 1.11 Notwithstanding the above, should any payment, commission or gratuity be offered to the ONW Structure, the Executive Committee will act in the best

interests of the neighbourhood watch and will immediately and in writing, advise the ONW Structure of its decision and/or actions in this regard.

1.12 No member may exploit their membership of the ONW Structure to their own advantage or benefit.

1.13 Members must at all times act in a manner that will uphold and promote the aims and objective of the neighbourhood watch structure as highlighted by the neighbourhood watch structures constitution and code of conduct.

2. Structure:

2.1. The ONW Structure will be a non-profit making organization.

2.2. The ONW Structure must be non-politically aligned and should not participate or engage or support or secure the premises where any political activity is being conducted. However should the ONW Structure be requested to promote a safe environment its acceptance must be performed within the framework of the law and as contained herein. A public and official statement must be made at the meeting and/or gathering in regard to the statutes of the neighbourhood watch.

2.3. The neighbourhood watch structure and its members must operate in partnership with the South African Police services and within the framework of the law.

2.4. Should the ONW Structure choose to do patrols, only minimum force as described in the Criminal Procedure Act No. 51 of 1977 may be used to secure the arrest of the perpetrator of an offence and no intimidation in whatever form may be used in the community where such patrols are taking place.

2.5. If any such patrols are to take place, the Woodstock South African Police Services must be informed and the South African Police Services officer or reservists, wherever possible, must support such neighbourhood watch patrols.

2.6. The ONW Executive Committee must, by means of registration, ensure that no person under the age of 18 years participates in neighbourhood watch patrols.

2.7. The ONW Executive Committee will appropriately penalize a member of the ONW Structure if such a member is found guilty of misconduct or has brought the good name of the association into disrepute, depending on the merits of the case.

2.8. All members of the ONW Structure will be required to sign a pledge endorsing the Western Cape Provincial Constitution and Code of Conduct for Neighbourhood Watch Structures.

2.9. The ONW Structure and its members is not a substitute for the South African Police Services.

3. Disciplinary measures:

All disciplinary measures will entail

- Reprimand
- Suspension
- Expulsion subject to investigation

In the event of any complaint being lodged against a member of the ONW Structure, The ONW Executive Committee may propose to reprimand, suspend or expel the member, subject to an investigation and to deal with the matter at its earliest convenience and advise the complainant of its action. Furthermore the ONW

Executive Committee will with immediate effect advise the ONW Structure of its decision and the action taken.