

# The Importance of a Police-Community Partnership (Co-production): A Study of the City of Johannesburg

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This study analysed the importance of police-community partnerships aka co-production in the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality (hereafter Johannesburg) as a way to fight crime. A police-community partnership is a form of community policing used to fight crime to ensure a safe living and working environment for the public. It closes the gap between the police and the community by establishing a working relationship and deep engagement between the two. Therefore, communities share responsibilities with the police, such as street patrolling and guarding private and public properties. This study found that the strengthening of police-community partnership is an effective way to reduce crime, as it enables the community to be watchdogs for the police and report any suspicious activities happening. A qualitative research approach was used, and data was gathered through key informant interviews conducted at nine different police stations around Johannesburg. The study found that police-community partnership is essential in curbing crime; however, its success in Johannesburg has been affected by a lack of resources and insufficient support from the government. The study recommended that the South African government should support the police services with the required resources and amend legislation protecting criminals.

**Keywords:** *community; crime; partnership; policing, co-production, Johannesburg*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research leading to these results has received funding from the National Research Foundation (NRF) under the grant number **N01872/120789RUN**. There is no conflict of interest, and the content is the objective view of the research outcomes.



## INTRODUCTION

Policing serves as an essential public good, as it is responsible for regulating society, maintaining order, preventing criminal activities, responding to crime, restoring order within communities and ensuring accountability and public protection (Nkwenyane, 2011: 1). Crime and violence in South Africa are considered serious societal problems, imposing direct and indirect impacts on citizens (Ross & Rasool, 2019: 1). South African households in different areas normally experience common crimes, such as housebreaking (Statistics South Africa, 2020: 11). According to Statistics South Africa (2020: 3), “The number of households that experienced this crime has increased over the years from 2.1 million in 2015/16 to 2.3 million in 2019/20. The second most experienced crime by households during the last five years is home robbery”. This study was influenced by the increase in the South African crime rate.

The main purpose of this study was to analyse how police-community partnerships can address crime in cities such as Johannesburg.

According to Dlamini (2017: 7), “Crime continues to be a serious problem in South Africa, as the country ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> on the global crime index as at 2016”. Therefore, to strengthen policing services, the concept of the police-community partnership was introduced (Dlamini, 2017: 7).

South African police crime statistics from 2015 to 2017 indicate that – daily – there were 50 attempted murders, 61 home robberies, 136 sexual offences, 109 rapes, 46 vehicle hijackings and 219 reported cases of street robbery. The Western Cape and Gauteng Provinces recorded most of these cases, with the Cape Town, Johannesburg Central and Mitchells Plain Police Stations considered the busiest (Ross & Rasool, 2019: 7-8).

Ross and Rasool (2019: 8) maintain that the history of racial segregation, the inability to access proper housing, income inequalities and limited work opportunities influence crime in South Africa. As stated by Lomahoza (2019), despite the release of the official crime statistics, residents of Johannesburg indicate that their primary concern remains crime (33 per cent). Fifty-two per cent of people indicate that the greatest reports of crimes come from lower-income wards in Johannesburg, such as Ward 113 (Region A), consisting of Diepsloot, Midrand, Fourways, Kya Sands and Dainfern, while most crime hotspots are located in Region F, consisting of the greater inner city and Johannesburg South. As further stated by Lomahoza (2019), urbanisation factors trigger crime and safety challenges in Johannesburg, and crimes such as assault and robbery remain a challenge. According to Makhetha (2018), the national crime statistics for 2017/18 outlined a 42 per cent increase in crime compared to the 2016/17 period. An estimated 125 people killed in the Johannesburg suburb.

The main objective of community policing is to create a strong partnership between the police and citizens to formulate and implement solutions to increase safety and security within communities (Nkwenyane, 2011: 5). Parson and Kremling (2021: 13) maintain that



community policing enables the rethinking of traditional strategies used as a form of policing. The community-policing strategy for each community differs; therefore, it must be designed to meet those differences (Parson & Kremling, 2021: 13).

Parson and Kremling (2021: 46-47) also maintain that community policing can be considered a strategy and philosophy. Community policing as a strategy is about establishing a partnership between different stakeholders, such as the police, citizens and other service providers, to reduce the crime rate in affected areas. As a philosophy, it aims to promote organisational strategies that support the systematic use of partnership and problem-solving techniques to immediately respond to public safety issues, such as crime, social disorder and fear (Parson & Kremling, 2021: 46-47).

This study analysed the importance of having a police-community partnership in Johannesburg and was motivated by three factors. Firstly, according to Makhetha (2018), Johannesburg has been experiencing an increased crime rate. Secondly, the police force in Johannesburg has also been alleged to be involved in criminal activities; for example, in four Johannesburg Metro Police Department, an officers and two senior managers were arrested and charged with corruption and theft of motor vehicles in 2021 (Bhengu, 2021). Thirdly, government structures and involvement in different levels of the partnership at the local level remains questionable. In the context of these factors, this study sought to examine the potential contribution of police-community partnerships to reduce crime in Johannesburg. Specifically, this study answers the following research questions:

- How is the police-community partnership formed and structured in Johannesburg?
- How do police-community partnerships work to reduce crime in Johannesburg?
- How effective are police-community partnerships in reducing crime in Johannesburg?

This study used a qualitative research approach – key informant interviews were conducted at nine Johannesburg police stations – to answer the above-mentioned questions.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Kappeler et al (2020: 1-2) contend that community policing is a philosophy rather than an academic activity. It outlines that criminal activities occur due to the community's social challenges, which can be solved through public cooperation and support. Community policing as a philosophy demands specific policing styles and a different policing approach, provides enhanced policing accountability and transparency due to communities being aware of police strategies for the effective use of available resources and builds a good working relationship and trust between the police and public.

A study by Oppler (1997) outlines that in the 1980s, police-community partnerships were established in which independent parties joined hands with the police. This encompassed the public, elected officials, the government and other agencies working together to ensure community safety by fighting crime in countries like the United Kingdom, Australia, Holland and South Africa. Establishing this partnership is another way to create a safer environment for communities, and in the London borough of Wandsworth, this partnership resulted in positive feedback. Community policing originated in the United States of America during the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century due to increased social disorders and crime rates and the police's inability to solve safety problems independently. This resulted in the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) rethinking the effectiveness of their relationship with citizens and the existing crime-preventing model (Police Executive Research Forum, 2014: 43).

### ***Police-community partnerships in South Africa***

The South African Police Service (SAPS) Act 28 of 1995 provided for the establishment of the SAPS to bring the apartheid policing system to an end and enable community participation in policing. It is the responsibility of the state and its citizens to build safe communities; therefore, the government, civil society and private sector must all contribute to the government's efforts to promote safety, and crime and violence prevention. The introduction of democracy in South Africa in 1994 was an outstanding political achievement, as it enabled public participation and consultation in the policy process. The SAPS framework introduced the police-community partnership in 1993 as a way to meet citizens' safety and security requirements, especially at a local level, so that crime and other societal problems could be addressed (Nkwenyane, 2011: 1).

The transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 200 of 1993 Section 214 (1) provided for the establishment of community policing forums (CPFs) at all police stations. The functions of CPFs include ensuring effectiveness and efficiency of services, evaluating the provision of visible police service and promoting accountability of and cooperation between the community and police. Accordingly, CPFs were created to work with the SAPS to establish crime prevention programmes. Police stations were mandated to create CPFs through consulting relevant stakeholders and communities to determine policing needs and priorities and promote accountability, transparency and effectiveness within communities (Nkwenyane, 2011: 18-19).

Community safety forums have been established and derived from the Community Safety Forum Policy and allow community participation in safety, crime and violence interventions. These forums develop safety strategies and plans associated with national, provincial and local priorities, evaluate the implementation of safety programmes and facilitate regular safety audits in partnership with civil society. It is the responsibility of the state and its citizens to build safe communities; therefore, the government, civil society and private sector must all contribute to the government's efforts in safety, crime and violence prevention

programmes. The White Paper on Safety and Security indicates the importance of all provinces ensuring:

- Active public and community participation in the development, planning and implementation of national strategies and policies;
- Establishment of sustainable and suitable forums to ensure ongoing public participation;
- Creation of a private partnership to support safety programmes and crime and violence prevention programmes; and
- Provision of budgets and resources for safety programmes (Civilian Secretariat for Police, 2016: 16).

The SAPS Act 28 of 1995 makes provision for the establishment of community policing and requires police to promote communication with the community, ensure cooperation regarding the community's safety needs and improve transparency and accountability of the police service (Nkwenyane, 2011: 22). The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996) provides for the structuring of the national police service to operate in the national, provincial and local sphere of government, establishes the powers and functions of the police service through national legislation and requires the police service to maintain public order, investigate crime and uphold and enforce the law.

The SAPS Act 28 of 1995 provides that South African community policing is based on five elements: service orientation, establishing partnerships, problem-solving, empowerment and accountability.

### ***Crime prevention in South Africa***

According to Kruger et al (2016: 5), "Government policy and legislation urge the local government to take lead in implementing local level crime prevention programmes". Crime prevention seeks to resolve some of the causes of crime in South Africa, and interventions include law enforcement, social prevention and situational prevention. Law enforcement includes training response units for closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems, by-law enforcement and visible police patrols. Social prevention includes improving street lights in townships and central areas, and situational prevention includes city centre CCTV systems and reducing opportunities for street crimes, such as mugging, hijacking and rape (Kruger et al, 2016: 5).

Kruger et al (2016: 5) state that community safety remains South Africa's top priority, as Chapter 12 of the 2012 National Development Plan recommends improving the functioning of criminal justice systems and protecting vulnerable communities. Integrated Social Crime Prevention Strategy makes provision for the framework to address the main problems triggering crime.

### ***Theoretical framework of community policing***

Todd et al (2011: 1) outline that police-community partnership is concerned about enhancing the public's safety and standard of living and successful collective community action. This is done by addressing the problems associated with public safety.

Todd et al (2011: 13) further discuss the models and theories supporting police-community partnerships: disorder models linked with the broken windows theory, disorganisation models linked with the systemic theory and informal social control models linked with collective efficacy. It must be noted that this study was drawn from these theories.

Todd et al (2011: 14) state that “the ‘broken windows’ theory is one of the most popular ideas about the way crime comes about in the urban settings”. The broken windows theory sees a connection between the city's problems, referred to as disorders and crime. The disorders of urban areas may refer to rubbish, noise, uncontrolled groups of men and young boys which provided the theory with the name ‘broken windows’. It establishes assumptions that a place not taken care of is easily open for criminal activities. As a result, law-abiding citizens feel uncomfortable in those areas and change to a new location. Therefore, the broken windows theory advocates repairing urban disorders (Todd et al, 2011: 14). Todd et al (2011: 14-15) state that the broken windows theory explains criminal activities in the neighbourhood, as it posits that slightly neglected disorders result in people leaving the area, and as a result, various criminal activities increase. The broken windows theory is formulated from two principles: fear in public spaces and fear of crime, which is the fear of being bothered by disorganised people. Disorganised behaviour can be referred to as social disorder, and the concept of unchecked disorders and crime is connected with psychology. The social psychologist Zimbardo's research in the 1960s revealed that a property, regardless of being in a good or bad neighbourhood, that is not maintained is an easy target for theft and vandalism. Wilson and Kelling (1982) add that uncontrolled untoward behaviours can lead to the community failing to be controlled. Therefore, it is important to solve crimes committed against individuals, the community and even the neighbourhood (Todd et al, 2011: 14-15).

Todd et al (2011: 15-16) state that social disorganisation theory, developed by Clifford Shaw and Henry McKay in the 1940s, is the first and most important theory of crime. The theory highlights three sociological characteristics: poverty, ethnic differences and mobility, and states that when these features are present, society becomes disorganised. Poverty has always been considered a trigger of crime. The social disorganisation theory aims to find measures to organise neighbourhoods by establishing social groups and political dimensions (Todd et al, 2011: 15-16).

Todd et al (2011: 16-17) further state that the thesis of collective efficacy takes an alternative approach to the social problems affecting neighbourhoods. The thesis states that crime can be tackled by placing strong functioning measures of formal and informal social control in



nearby places. The informal social control originates from families, loved ones and friendship networks, who influence the lives of youngsters. For example, some families in a neighbourhood have strong social-relationship bonds between adults and the youth, which may lead to the youth being less involved in criminal activities. In contrast, other families have broken bonds, which may result in the youth being uncontrollable and involved in criminal activities. Therefore, collective efficacy advocates reducing crime by formulating social relationships in problematic neighbourhoods, which involves creating organisations and centres that enable residents to engage and build strong social networks and bonds (Todd et al, 2011: 16-17).

This study used the collective efficacy theory to understand the importance of police-community partnership in Johannesburg. Todd et al (2011: 16-17) provide that collective efficacy attempts to stop crime by formulating social relationships in problematic neighbourhoods; this involves creating organisations and centres that enable the residents to build strong social networks and bonds. The Public Servants Association (PSA) (2018: 1) illustrates that the importance of a partnership approach and initiatives, such as establishing Community Policing Forums (CPFs) and training programmes on community policing. CPFs link the police and the community by communicating community problems to the police and ensuring that the police are accountable and transparent (PSA, 2018: 2). CPFs must increase visibility within communities, establish working relationships and be accessible to the community to fulfil its objectives of fighting and reducing crime. It is the responsibility of the CPFs to establish proper communication between the public, police and structures within the sectors of society, and use media to increase the public's access to CPFs (Civilian Secretariat for Police, 2016: 16-17).

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study used the case study research design to investigate community-policing partnerships in Johannesburg and understand it as an alternative way of reducing crime.. The study adopted a descriptive and exploratory research whose purpose was to analyse the importance of police-community partnerships in Johannesburg. The exploratory and descriptive nature of this study was used to better understand South African community policing and its problems (Dlamini, 2017: 79). The study sample included relevant informants from various police stations in Johannesburg, such as Station commanders and Visible police commanders. The key informant interviewees were drawn from nine police stations around the Johannesburg metro.

This study used the purposive sampling technique to allow the researchers to choose respondents with knowledge and experience of community policing. The station commanders are the custodians of the police stations and could be considered as key decision-makers; whereas the visible policing department is responsible for face-to-face and

social interaction with the citizens. The interaction seeks to explore visual culture of contemporary policing and its impact on citizen-focused programmes and partnerships. The visible policing programme consist of crime prevention, specialised response services, intelligence gathering, social development, school education and awareness campaigns. There were 18 interviews in total and each interview lasted for approximately an hour. The interviews were transcribed verbatim, and the qualitative data was analysed using content analysis. During the analysis, the researchers carefully searched for the presence, meanings, and relationships of words, concepts, themes which were coded and categorized in order to draw conclusions.

### **DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

This section provides the primary findings. The study aimed to analyse the importance of police-community partnerships in Johannesburg. The study objectives included: i) exploring how the police-community partnership is formed and structured in Johannesburg; ii) analysing how police-community partnerships attempt to reduce crime in Johannesburg; and iii) analysing the effectiveness of police-community partnerships in reducing crime in Johannesburg. The respondents and police stations have not been identified by their names, considering the policy of anonymity associated with ethical research considerations. Their responses have been directly quoted in italics, and no corrections have been made to the language.

#### ***Nature of police-community partnerships in Johannesburg***

This section explores the nature of community-policing partnerships in Johannesburg and their role in reducing crime and improving public safety by solving societal problems and their causes. Todd et al (2011: 16-17) maintain that collective efficiency theory aims to solve crime in problematic neighbourhoods by establishing centres and organisations that enable residents to engage and build strong social bonds and networks while resolving societal problems threatening their safety. Parson and Kremling (2021: 36) argue that community policing involves partnerships with community members and groups, government agencies such as schools, non-profit organisations, private businesses and the media.

The station commander at Police Station A indicated that they had established partnerships, such as business and community forums, to assist them in enhancing community safety.

*“We do have such partnerships. We have business forums; we have community forums; we have sector brooks. We give out pamphlets in high schools. A lot of participation in the community, too.”*

At Police Station B, the station commander indicated that they had established partnerships with banks and security companies. He admitted that private security officials were more visible in many areas and responded faster than the SAPS. However, the SAPS mainly



focused on protecting the interests of all citizens, while security officials focused on satisfying the interests of their clients. The station commander noted:

*“There are a lot of security companies. Now, we are trying to bring them together like we have done with banks. I have the four heads of security and the banks together, and they are working as one. There are lots of security companies looking after the groups. They are looking after the community, and there is an app called Zello that helps us to respond swiftly to the crime scene.”*

Training was provided to individuals participating in the partnership between police, banks and security companies. Among the trainees, it was noted that there were individuals such as hawkers who knew many criminals in the areas where they did business. The trainees collaborated with police and communicated using Zello (a localised radio communication technology) and WhatsApp groups.

The station commander at the Police Station C revealed they partnered with schools in their area. Schools serve as an area where attitudes, values and life skills are developed, and formal schooling plays a vital role in creating responsible and empowered citizens. Therefore, a designated police officer at the station adopted a school, making it easier for the police to raise awareness among pupils on criminal matters and improve safety in schools. The station commander also stated:

*“What we did in this neighbourhood was to ensure every police officer adopt a school. They will communicate with the school and address the school. We speak to the kids in the schools about drugs and how to report crime to us. We also talk about abuse and tips to prevent such. This effort is helping to improve security in this neighbourhood.”*

Further, the station commander outlined that they involved community members in community-policing matters by conducting meetings with appointed police station sector managers.

*“The community sits with the sector manager and sector chairperson. They discuss their problems; they look at complaints, and those that cannot be addressed are brought to the police station. We look at the matter and solutions. We deal with the “indunas” from hostels, and they tell us their problems.”*

The station commander at Police Station D outlined that they partnered with the community through CPFs. Individuals were selected from forums comprising the police and community representatives to provide information to the police regarding security threats faced by the community. The visible station commander at the same Police Station pointed out that the police-community partnership and CPFs’ visibility played an essential role in ensuring increased public security.

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*“We have people in the community taking guard of the area at night – during the night or day. They notify the sector police if anything is suspicious. Police officers attend to whatever is happening and deal with it accordingly. We have patrollers on a stipend who assist us in improving security in the area.”*

Police-community partnerships provided platforms for interaction between community members and police officers, which helped to reduce crime and improve trust between the police and communities. These partnerships also played an essential role in improving the safety of citizens and police officers (Zencity, 2021).

### ***Role of police-community partnerships in reducing crime in Johannesburg***

The station commander at Police Station B confirmed that their partnership with banks and security companies created employment opportunities for the unemployed.

*“Some people are not working, and we scan their fingerprints. We give them some training; currently, with the bank, we have 10 of the unemployed. They will get a certificate to become security guards.”*

Further, the station commander indicated that trained individuals participating in crime prevention also received stipends.

*“What used to happen was that the people who started this many years ago would give food vouchers because there was not funding. However, we began to give the volunteers a stipend of R1 800. The minimum now is R3 000.”*

The station commander at Police Station A outlined that their communication with communities through social media had an impact on solving some problems.

*“[Social media] definitely has had an effect. They say knowledge is power. More people participate on WhatsApp groups as community members. We use other media chats if the group is full.”*

The police partnering with private security companies, hawkers and community members through using Zello and WhatsApp groups significantly contributed to fighting crime. Similarly, the station commander at Police Station D said they worked with car guards who played an essential role in preventing car thefts, as they provided the police with information on stolen cars.

### ***Challenges affecting the effectiveness of police-community partnerships in Johannesburg***

In every police-community partnership, there are challenges. For example, the station commander at Police Station D pointed out that sometimes community members felt unsure and hesitated to cooperate with the police.

*“We have people elected by them [the communities] so that we can have people whom we always have to meet with, and they will tell us if they have a problem.”*

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*They help us move around the area so that we can raid. We get the leaders, and we talk to them. However, they hide some of the information because they are scared.”*

The visible police commander at Police Station D said that the apartheid system had a massive impact on people’s mindset concerning the police, making it difficult to establish a good working relationship.

*“Before independence, police are seen as abusers. To change this mindset in the people will take time. If people come along and talk, we can ease the work of policing.”*

As a result, there had been poor community involvement in community policing, making it difficult for the police to solve crimes. The visible police commander at Police Station D said:

*“Not everyone is willing to come on board. I have been here for three years. In meetings, a few people will come, and that is the problem. We give out pamphlets to show what we will be discussing, but people will not come.”*

Furthermore, effective policing requires the constant provision of tools and resources that enhance police performance. Unfortunately, South African police stations lack sufficient resources, such as police vehicles, bulletproof vests and human resources such as police officers (PSA, 2018: 2-3). For example, the visible police commander at Police Station E confirmed that they faced a shortage of police vehicles.

*“We need more vehicles. Members sometimes cannot cover a bigger area because of lack of vehicles. We need more resources to sustain what we are doing.”*

With regard to human resources, the station commander at Police Station G said the following:

*“You can see the only problem here; maybe, if we can have enough manpower, but our manpower is very low. If they can upgrade this station to become a brigadier one; that is when we shall have a lot of members. We can have 200 visible police. Then we can have about six vehicles; then it will be better.”*

The July 2021 national unrest in South Africa exposed a severe weakness of the SAPS: poor police visibility due to a shortage of police officers (Newman, 2021).

Lastly, the station commander at Police Station B enumerated that, despite the success of Zello in reducing crime, there was no legislative support regarding the use of Zello.

*“For example, the Zello is a very effective tool, but now the legislation does not allow for the use of it. You are compromise the safety of members of the operations. So you have legalities. So we are limited: if you want the radio to*



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*work on any frequency, you have to pay. If the government does not back you up, you will have difficulties.”*

## **FINDINGS**

### ***Nature of police-community partnerships in Johannesburg***

The Police Executive Research Forum (2014: 16) points out that police-business partnerships are established in response to high crime levels affecting businesses such as banks and convenience stores. This enables police and businesses to create strategies to solve these challenges (Police Executive Research Forum, 2014: 16).

Police-media partnerships inform the community about crime occurring in a neighbourhood, which raises the community's awareness of crime and proposes possible solutions. Media reports from radios, newspapers and television typically cover criminal activities occurring in the neighbourhood (Police Executive Research Forum, 2014: 28).

South African schools often encounter threats such as crime and violence. An increase in crime and violence in South African schools resulted in the Department of Basic Education establishing a partnership with the SAPS in 2011 to improve safety and raise awareness. The school-SAPS partnerships teach learners about crime and violence and their impacts on individuals and families. Crimes include bullying, sexual offences, use of drugs and burglary.

### ***Role of police-community partnerships in reducing crime in Johannesburg***

The Police Executive Research Forum (2014: 16) stipulate that police-business partnerships play an essential role in solving criminal activities and strengthening community capacity by transferring business skills and resources to the community. These partnerships also promote empowerment by creating jobs and internship opportunities and facilitating interaction with the media through advertising (Police Research Forum, 2014: 28).

The police-media partnership raises awareness of criminal activities in a neighbourhood to alert communities, suggests crime prevention techniques and assists police in investigating criminal activities (Police Executive Research Forum, 2014: 28). The station commander at Police Station B indicated that partnering with the media reduced crime and enabled them to share ideas on fighting crimes more effectively.

### ***Challenges affecting the effectiveness of police-community partnerships in Johannesburg***

Researchers have established that community members are, at times, scared to report criminals to the police because those criminals can return and kill the police informants. For example, Maregele (2017: 1) asserts that residents in the Nyanga Township, Cape Town, were unwilling to report criminals to the police because of fear of being snitched on and killed.

In South Africa, political violence and the apartheid system created a challenging environment for community policing. Today, community trust in the police is still difficult to build due to apartheid-era police brutality, particularly given that during apartheid, police were seen as oppressors (Dlamini, 2017: 40).

The study findings have contributed to the understanding of various police-community partnerships used to combat crime and their effectiveness and challenges in Johannesburg. The findings have indicated that establishing police-community partnerships between the police, community, businesses and private security companies plays an essential role in fighting crime, despite the challenges encountered by the police and communities.

### ***Study implications***

This study investigated the importance of establishing police-community partnerships to reduce crime in Johannesburg. Proper implementation of these partnerships plays an essential role in promoting and ensuring public safety and building trust between the police and communities.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendations regarding how police-community partnerships can be strengthened are as follows.

### ***Lack of resources***

During the key informant interviews, it was revealed that most police stations lack resources, such as police vehicles, which limit police visibility. Therefore, it is recommended that police resources be prioritised and budgeted for when the national sphere of government prepares annual budgets, as this will assist in reducing crime rates, resulting in a safer living and working environment for communities.

### ***Poor legislative support***

The station commander at Police Station B said that there is poor legislative support from the government for using technologies such as Zello, a means of communication between police officers, private security guards, hawkers and community members about neighbourhood criminal activities. This means of communication is seen to be effective in reducing crime in Johannesburg, as stated by the station commander at Police Station B. Therefore, it is recommended that the government reviews legislation and strengthens police services and police-community partnership strategies.

### ***Poor community involvement***

The respondents stated that some community members do not reveal any information regarding neighbourhood criminal activities due to fear of being killed and lack of trust in the police. There is also poor community involvement in police-community meetings. Therefore,



it is recommended that communities be taught the essence of crime reporting and encouraged to share with the police any information on safety threats. In addition, the police should embark on community-building programmes that restore the community's faith and trust in the police and build a successful relationship with the communities in which they operate.

## CONCLUSIONS

This study analysed the importance of police-community partnerships as a way to combat crime in Johannesburg. The study established that police-community partnerships are essential to reduce crime. In Johannesburg, police-community partnerships have taken on various forms: police-business partnerships, police-media partnerships, police-school partnerships and police-community partnerships. Research evidence from this study revealed that these partnerships assisted in curbing crime in the city. However, numerous challenges affect the effectiveness of police-community partnerships in Johannesburg, including a lack of resources such as vehicles and police officers and a lack of legislative support for the use of technologies such as Zello. This research recommended prioritising police service resources, establishing legislative support for community-policing strategies and enhancing trust and community involvement.



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