

LETTERS

Traffic woes in Phoenix are neglected

I WRITE to you regarding the current traffic situation in Phoenix.

There are major traffic problems in this area and such problems receive no attention from the relevant authorities.

This matter was referred to the Traffic and Metro Police departments four years ago and there has not been any feedback since.

We, the residents of Phoenix are concerned about traffic violations and traffic management in the following hot spots:

- Duff's Road and Old North Coast Road T-junction, where Metro Police officers are only seen once every six months.

The off-ramp leading off the N2 / KwaMashu Highway onto the stop at the aforementioned T-junction towards Phoenix is unmanned, making it one of the most dangerous T-junctions in the locale.

There is on/off evidence of the construction of robots, but the island juts out quite precariously onto the path of traffic turning right at the stop street.

Due to the unreasonable congestion, motorists have to travel left if they are going right into Phoenix and then have to make dangerous turns further up towards Duffs Road before re-routing towards Phoenix, creating more hazards to oncoming traffic.

- The road leading off Old North Coast Road from Whitehouse, turning into Glen Anil.

This road has one left lane heading to Glen Anil from Phoenix but reckless road users make this into a three-lane road, which results in dangerous overtaking and congestions, not to mention the rampant disregard for any road courtesy by taxi drivers.

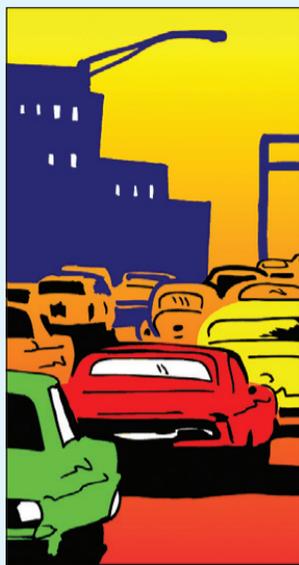
- Greenbury Drive and Spine Road T-junction.

The problem here is that additional young drivers frequent the Greenbury school area once school is dismissed, where they perform their unusual road tricks.

On 8 May, one such car narrowly missed 15 pupils and crashed into an electric pole.

- Single lane on the busy Phoenix Highway.

Poor town planning and ongoing densification of our township has resulted in high traffic volumes throughout Phoenix without any consideration for planning for future increases in vehicle and pedestrian volumes.



I have travelled along Northway for almost 20 years, and the area has been well serviced for all that time and danger to pedestrians is limited.

Yet the pleas of residents and pedestrians have been neglected in a sprawling area such as Phoenix, whose population has quadrupled in the last decade.

Please provide some answers to these questions.

D SINGH
Phoenix CBO
Representative

DURING peak hours the whole of Phoenix is congested.

As a matter of fact, the problem of traffic congestion and road rage is not just in this area.

It is a national crisis.

As the law enforcement division, it is virtually impossible to be at the same location everyday.

This is due to the high volumes of complaints we receive from the public to attend to various hot spots and get people to observe the rules.

Looking back at the recent past, the number of vehicles on our roads have multiplied dramatically every year.

Phoenix alone has doubled in the number of cars and new drivers on its roads compared to 2003/04.

It is therefore inevitable that the traffic on our roads increases at this rate.

However, I would like to assure the writer that Metro Police is doing its work and culprits are being dealt with accordingly.

The writer, however, need not overlook the fact that the department receives a lot of calls to various spots.

SUPT. MARCUS QUARSINGH
Metro Police: Phoenix

PROFILES: COUNCILLORS

The city's 200 councillors have begun their new term, assessing the needs of their communities and seeking ways to improve service delivery. In this, and future editions, we will profile them so that you can put faces to names and get to know them better



Name: Dennis Mzwandile Mhlanzi (PR)
Age: 39
Party: ANC
Family:

Married with a son and a daughter
Ward: 10 – Kloof, Stockville and Magojela
Committees: Economic Development and planning
Ward needs: Residents of Stockville and Magojela live in shacks. Stockville needs social upliftment with regards to housing, water and sanitation. Also concentrating on issuing identity documents. Stockville needs a sportsground.

Has delivered: Assisted the community with regards to receiving identity documents. Most people did not have IDs for the collection of their grant. Also aided the flood survivors, with food parcels and building material.

Challenges for 2007: My aim is to build more houses in the ward and to install proper water and sanitation in homes by end of the year.
Passionate about: I loved soccer but I am now a paraplegic but that does not stop me. I am passionate about working with my community.

Contact: 082 955 9934, mhlanzidm@durban.gov.za .



Name: Gangraj Chetty (PR)
Age: 55
Family: Married with one son and two

daughters
Party: Minority Front
Ward: Verulam
Committee: Economic Development and Planning
Ward needs: More houses for the poor, more lighting and the creation of speed humps in most roads, especially next to schools.

Has delivered: Spearheaded a grass-cutting initiative in the ward, which helped in clearing "hiding places" for criminals. Storm waters also installed. Also involved with the Verulam Civic Organisation as an extension to service the community.
Challenges for 2007: Great need for proper housing "so that people can live a better life." Creation of speed humps near schools to ensure a safe environment for school kids.

Passionate about: Any initiative that is aimed at uplifting the community. Committed to seeing more people participating in sports such as rugby and cricket, especially the previously disadvantaged. I am a devout family man.

Contact: 083 321 0989, 031 311 2003 (office), chettyg@durban.gov.za .



Name: John Alan Green (PR)
Age: 73
Family: Single
Party: DA
Ward: 32 –

Berea, Morningside and Glenwood
Committees: Health, Safety and Social Services
Ward needs: This is a well looked after ward. However, residents need to look after the streetlights, roads and pavements.

They must also clean the graffiti on the walls. We need parks for children to play.

Has delivered: I requested speed humps and they are now in place. Also, the resurfacing of the roads.

I have helped the poor people.

Challenges for 2007: To get everyone to keep all parks, roads, and streetlights in good condition and look after it so that our children can use them too.

Aids/HIV is a huge challenge and something has to be done to stop the spread of the virus.

Passionate about: I am passionate about the general running of all municipal affairs.

I enjoy spending time with family as well as travelling and playing tennis.

Contact: 082 402 1878 .



Name: Thulani Lawrence Ncwane (PR)
Age: 36
Family: Married with two sons and

two daughters
Party: ANC
Ward: 50 – part of Phoenix, the NPA informal settlement, Unit 17- Stanmore

Committee: Health
Ward needs: Housing, title deeds, employment, the maintenance of parks and roads and the shortage of water and electricity in the NPA informal settlement.

Has delivered: Housing, including flats. A youth forum has been developed and will create awareness around issues such as drug abuse.

Flats are being painted and will be given to the owners with the title deeds.

Challenges for 2007: To fight crime and poverty and to satisfy the communities needs.

Areas like the NPA informal settlement need water and electricity. People must avoid illegal dumping.

Passionate about: Working with the community and attending meetings because the exchange of information is the best way for me to gain more knowledge.

Contact: 084 875 5527, 031 311 2007 (work), Ncwanelt@durban.gov.za .



Name: Vinesh Sunker (PR)
Age: 48
Family: Married with two sons and one

daughter
Party: IFP
Wards: 69, 70, 71, 72 and 73 – Chatsworth

Committees: Housing, Cleansing and Solid Waste and Human Resources.

Ward needs: Employment. Programmes to bring about proper accommodation for people living in informal settlements. Crime-fighting programmes. Upgrading of parks and roads.

Has delivered: Heightened the need for speed humps. Succeeded in inviting the Head of Parks and Cemeteries to visit a park that has been neglected in Ward 71, with a view to have it upgraded in July.

Challenges for 2007: Finding proper housing and accommodation for those living in informal settlements. Also to have programmes that would cater for middle-class homeowners who have been living in outside buildings for many years.

Passionate about: Religion, family and our youth.
Contact: 082 831 5795, 031 403 9881 (fax), SunkerL@durban.gov.za .



Name: Yassien Saib (PR)
Age: 57
Family: Married with two sons and a daughter

Party: DA
Ward: 50 – Stanmore, Grove-end, Forest Haven, Woodview and part of Palmview

Committees: Housing, Cleansing and Solid Waste and Corporate and Human Resource

Ward needs: A community hall, speed humps and robots, laybys for taxi's and buses, a better sportsground and a mini stadium.

Has delivered: The Phoenix cemetery, Sastri Park community hall and many religious sites. A library in Caneside and Sastri Park, a clinic in Cane Haven Drive, roads, robots at the Phoenix highway area and a swimming pool in Stanmore.

Challenges for 2007: Crime. To upgrade flats and provide low income houses.

HIV/Aids and poverty. To upgrade clinics and provide ARVs to the community.

Passionate about: Housing, the communities health, family life and senior citizens.

Contact: 082 660 2787, 031 305 1571 (work), 031 505 8686 (home), saiby@telkomsa.net .



Name: Nompumelelo Chamane (PR)
Age: 46
Family: Single with

seven children

Party: ANC
Ward: 27 – Morningside, Greyville, Durban Station, Kings Park Stadium, Blue Lagoon, Part of Kingsmead
Committee: Infrastructure, Replacement Committee, Unit Forum Water and Solid Waste, Bargaining Council, Salga HR and Local Labor Forum.

Ward needs: Affordable accommodation, access to health facilities, clinics, a police station, schools, employment, community halls, a cemetery and access to safe, secure and clean areas, a clean environment, crèches, pre-schools and sports facilities for kids.

Has delivered: Electricity, water, roads, road patrols, a committee ward forum and the new stadium.

Challenges for 2007: To have 24-hour police patrols. To further educate informal traders and domestic workers.

Passionate about: Issues related to orphans. I am an Orlando Pirates supporter.

Contact: 083 272 0405, 031 311 3309 (work), 031 311 3312 (fax) .



Name: Nkululeko Cromwell Nofeketa (PR)
Age: 37
Party: DA
Family:

Married with two sons and one daughter

Ward: 29 – Chesterville, KwaMasxha, Nsimbini, Fast track, Phase 5, and part of Bonnela

Committees: Infrastructure
Ward needs: A forum where community leaders can converge, integrate and consult on pertinent matters relating to community development. There's also a need for housing. Certain roads at Nsimbini and Fast Track need to be revamped.

Has delivered: Involved in delivering basic necessities to the community, however, there is still lots to be done, especially in terms of housing delivery.

Challenges for 2007: Housing remains a thorny issue that requires immediate attention. Also, to restructure the process of distributing houses to the needy. Having more viable programmes to deal with criminal elements.

Passionate about: Religion, family, youth empowerment and community building initiatives.

Being a former rugby player, I love the sport.

Contact: 082 817 2478 .