Onrus Vermont Special Rating Area NPC
Registered non-profit company 2021/537370/08
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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2026

Reporting period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

1. OVERVIEW

It is my pleasure to present the Chairperson's Report for the 2025-2026 financial year. This was the OVSRA's fifth year of operation and the first year of our renewed five-year term. It was a year of continued investment in our safety infrastructure, stronger operational capacity and close cooperation with our community, service providers and municipal partners.

The year also brought challenges. Our camera network continued to grow, placing greater pressure on the control room and on available funding. Extended power failures and storm damage tested our operational resilience, while escalating security costs continued to outpace the growth in income. The Board addressed these matters through careful financial management, operational reviews and ongoing engagement with the Overstrand Municipality.

Against this background, the results are encouraging. Serious property-related crime decreased substantially, our CCTV network and detection rate grew, and the team continued to assist residents and visitors across a wide range of public-safety, welfare and environmental matters. We extend our sincere thanks to the Overstrand Municipality for the productive partnership maintained throughout the year.

2. OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Incident Response and Crime Prevention
The Public Safety Team dealt with 3 374 incidents during the year, compared with 3 486 in the previous financial year - a slight overall decrease of 3.2%. This total includes crime prevention, public assistance, by-law matters and community complaints, and should therefore not be read as a measure of crime alone.

The most important crime indicators moved in a positive direction:

Property-related crime decreased by 48.4%, from 192 incidents to 99,
Housebreaking and attempted theft decreased by 53.5%, from 71 incidents to 33,
Theft out of motor vehicles decreased by 83.3%, from six incidents to one,
Robbery decreased by 42.9%, from 14 incidents to eight, and
Crime-related incidents decreased by 33% in Onrus, 66.7% in Onrus North, 20.5% in Vermont and 58.3% along the R43.

These results reflect the combined effect of CCTV monitoring, visible patrols, information supplied by residents, and cooperation with SAPS, Law Enforcement, Neighbourhood Watches and private security companies.

Public Safety and Social Support
The OVSRA's work extends well beyond conventional response to crime. During the year, the team assisted distressed members of the public and animals on 508 occasions, provided direct public assistance in 220 cases, attended 26 medical incidents, reported 77 open windows, doors or gates, and assisted with the recovery of property on 57 occasions.

We also recorded increases in vagrancy, drinking in public, public complaints and other law-enforcement or by-law matters. These trends place additional demands on our team and require coordinated responses with municipal and social-support services. We will continue to monitor these areas carefully.

Seasonal Visibility
Additional controller and patroller capacity was deployed during the festive season and Easter, when activity and alert volumes increase. This additional capacity proved valuable and strengthened visibility and responsiveness during peak periods.

3. SAFETY TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

CCTV Network and Outcomes
The expansion and strengthening of our CCTV network remained a major focus. By the end of the reporting period, the network had grown by 32% to 103 cameras. Nine cameras were added through community-funded projects and a further 13 through OVSRA projects. We are sincerely grateful to the residents who continue to support camera installations in priority areas.

The control room processed approximately 86 000 alerts during the year. Of these, 1 889 alerts approximately 2% of them required additional investigation. The camera detection rate increased by 30%. The team's work contributed to 17 arrests, of which nine, or 53%, were assisted by CCTV.

Camera projects progressed at identified locations including the coastal path, Bond Street Park, Davies Pool, Trading Post and other priority areas. The operational expenditure on CCTV and control-room infrastructure during the year amounted to R204 000, comprising:

R150 000 for CCTV camera projects,
R30 000 for network improvements,
R4 000 for CCTV repairs, radios and related equipment,
R11 000 for control-room upgrades, including screens, and
R9 000 for CCTV operational requirements, including cherry-picker costs.

Control Room Development
As the network expanded, the Board identified pressure on controller capacity, alert volumes, reporting accuracy and software performance. A formal review of control-room operations was undertaken with our service providers. Changes were implemented, performance was monitored and measurable improvements followed.

The Board has resolved that future camera expansion must be matched by appropriate control-room capacity. This is essential if we are to retain the value of the network and ensure that alerts are investigated accurately and promptly.

Power and Operational Resilience
Extended power failures and storm-related damage again demonstrated how dependent our operation is on reliable infrastructure. Temporary generator arrangements enabled the control room and key cameras

to remain operational during outages. The Board therefore resolved to acquire a suitable OVSRA generator and investigate solar power for the office and control room.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Environmental matters became an increasingly visible part of the OVSRA's work during the year. We participated in alien vegetation clearing, clean-up initiatives and environmental forums, working with residents, conservation groups and municipal stakeholders.

Substantial invasive vegetation was removed in identified areas. The OVSRA also participated in clean-ups along the R43 and around the cemetery, church and other public spaces. These activities reinforce the connection between well-maintained public spaces, community pride and safety.

Our team continued to respond to incidents involving wildlife, stray animals and vulnerable or distressed people, referring cases to the appropriate authorities and support organisations where necessary.

5. MUNICIPAL AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

A significant amount of management and Board time was devoted to engagement with the Overstrand Municipality.

The OVSRA also supported community engagement with Eskom regarding ageing electricity infrastructure and remained active in safety and community forums. Through our General Manager, we participated in JOCOM meetings, E2 Business Against Crime, the Ward 13 Committee and its subcommittees, OREF and its Water Quality Sub-committee, the Hermanus CPF, and other neighbourhood and sector-based engagements.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

We continued to strengthen our relationship with residents through newsletters, Meet and Greets, public meetings, Facebook and WhatsApp communication. Our WhatsApp channel has become an important way to share urgent alerts, security successes, environmental initiatives and practical community information. The community remains central to our effectiveness. Residents continue to report up to 50% of incidents each month, making them an essential part of our eyes-and-ears network. We thank every person who reports suspicious activity, shares accurate information and supports our projects.

7. GOVERNANCE AND BOARD MATTERS

Service Providers
A detailed and transparent Request for Quotation process was completed for the OVSRA's major security service portfolios. Following evaluation and engagement, Fidelity ADT and WCC Technologies were appointed. I thank the Directors and evaluation team for the considerable time and care devoted to this process.

AGM and Constitutional Matters
The 2025 AGM, held on 17 December 2025, did not achieve the required quorum. An adjourned meeting was therefore held on 16 February 2026, when the annual financial statements, the budget and implementation plan, the appointment of auditors, and the appointment and re-appointment of Directors were formally approved.

The difficulty in obtaining a 20% quorum highlighted the need to review this requirement. A proposal to reduce the quorum from 20% to 10% will be considered by members at the 2026 AGM. The Board has also recognised the importance of succession planning and of attracting additional Directors with the skills and time required to support the organisation's growing responsibilities.

8. FINANCE

As reported by our accountants and auditors, the OVSRA's finances were tightly managed within the approved budget. Monthly management accounts were submitted by the accountants and considered at Board meetings, enabling the Board to monitor expenditure and respond promptly where necessary.

The organisation remained financially stable, with cash reserves and continued growth in assets, largely through investment in CCTV infrastructure. Depreciation and accelerated capital expenditure, however, affected the reported operating surplus.

The Board remains concerned that security operating expenses are increasing faster than operational income. This constrains essential capacity building at the same time that additional cameras are required at identified crime hot spots. For the reporting period, there was a shortfall of R110 000 for required new cameras and a further R161 000 for security upgrades in high-risk areas.

This position is currently being addressed with our strategic partner, the Overstrand Municipality, and discussions are underway. We remain extremely grateful for community contributions towards additional cameras, which have enabled projects that could not otherwise have been completed.

9. PARTNERSHIPS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work described in this report is only possible because many people and organisations contribute their time, expertise and resources.

I extend our sincere thanks to:

- The Overstrand Municipality for a constructive and productive partnership.
- SAPS, Law Enforcement, Traffic, Neighbourhood Watches, private security companies, other SRAs and our partners across the safety and security sector.
- WCC Technologies and Fidelity ADT for their operational and technical support.
- Snyman's Attorneys for the generous sponsorship of an NP200 vehicle for the OVSRA's day-to-day management.
- Lourens Theron for his dedication and determination, including many late nights and early mornings flying his drone and assisting in tracking suspects, sometimes in difficult and dangerous circumstances.
- Coenie Groenewald of CCG Electrical for the generous loan of his generator during extended power outages.
- The NG Kerk and Deon van der Kooi for the AGM venue and audiovisual support.
- Miranda Kruger, who our Enviro-patrollers assist with an invasive alien vegetation clearing project along the banks of the Onrus River
- We thank community members who host many of the OVSRA cameras and provide the electricity needed to keep them operating.
- Every resident and community donor who supported our CCTV projects and continued to act as our eyes and ears by reporting incidents.

Staff, Management and Board
I thank our General Manager, our service-providers, as well as personnel in our control-room, public-safety patrollers, environmental partners, and our volunteers / Friends of the OVSRA for their commitment throughout the year.

A special word of thanks goes to our General Manager, Meredith Thornton. Her energy, accessibility and commitment to the OVSRA's many operational and community responsibilities continue to be invaluable. Much of her work takes place quietly behind the scenes, and the Board is deeply grateful for all she does.

I also thank my fellow Directors for their time, careful oversight and commitment to the organisation - Deputy Chair Renate van Dyk, Finance Director John Barnardt, CCTV Operations Director AJ Smit, Communications Director Jean Orban, and I would like to extend a special word of thanks to Helen Everitt, who has served the OVSRA as our co-opted Secretary for the last 2 years. As Helen is now stepping down, this AGM will be her final task, and we thank her sincerely for the time, care and commitment she has given to the Board and the organisation. Helen, your contribution has been greatly appreciated, and we wish you everything of the best.

10. LOOKING AHEAD

The year ahead will focus on:

- Addressing the gap between available income and growing operational requirements.
- Matching further CCTV expansion with adequate control-room capacity.
- Prioritising cameras and security upgrades in identified high-risk areas.
- Improving power resilience through an OVSRA-owned generator and other suitable solutions.
- Strengthening operational reporting, governance and succession planning.
- Continuing meaningful engagement with residents, the Municipality and our safety partners.
- Supporting environmental care and the maintenance of safer public spaces.
- The achievements of this year belong to the entire OVSRA community. I thank every resident, partner, volunteer, staff member and Director whose contribution helps make Onrus, Vermont, Chanteclair and Berghof safer, cleaner and better connected.

Caroline Gabb
OVSRA Chairperson
21 September 2026