

Background to the vetting of Private Security at shopping centres.

The voluntary vetting of Private Security (see attached document) is a process that has been endorsed by Business Against Crime South Africa and also forms part of the initiatives being implemented by the Violent Organised Crime working group. The Violent Organised Crime (VOC) working group is part of the joint government/ business Step Change Initiative. The vetting process has the support of both government and big business. The process has been developed jointly by Business Against Crime South Africa and the South African Police Service.

The process relies on businesses ensuring that their security service providers embark on regular vetting of guards and linking this vetting to SAPS criminal records database.

The Shopping Centre Security Initiative at the operation committee meeting on 29 January 2008 agreed to the following regarding this vetting:

- All managing and owner companies should explore ensuring this vetting process is implemented by their security service providers. This would include both private security and car guards. Some companies present also intend extending this vetting to include cleaning contractors, parking management and any other contractors operating at their shopping centres. It needs to be noted that the onus for the vetting will be the responsibility of the contractor and the owner and managing companies' role will be to ensure the contractors have implemented this vetting and provide reports on the out come of the vetting to the managing and owner companies.
- The project manager of the initiative will design a template which will monitor the implementation of this vetting at shopping centres and retailers.

Business Against Crime South Africa intends hosting a press conference in March 2008. This press conference will highlight what businesses have agreed to implement the voluntary vetting and will serve to emphasize businesses commitment in the fight against crime. The operations committee agreed that managing and owner companies (and retailers) should inform the project manager by the end of February what their companies plans are regarding the implementation of this process. This will allow these companies to be included in the press conference to be held.

If you have any queries regarding the vetting process please contact Jennifer@bac.org.za or anton@bac.org.za.