

ABOUT THE ORGANISATION OF CIVIC RIGHTS - OCR

TYPE OF ORGANISATION

The OCR is a community organisation formed in 1984 and is involved in: -

- Tenants rights
- Homeless
- Inner city redevelopment
- Anti-crime & other community issues

19 YEARS LATER, the OCR continues to work with the disadvantaged, the elderly, the poor and those suffering as a result of unjust socio-economic conditions and laws. The OCR,

- Provides a nation-wide service to tenants.
- Conducts workshops nation-wide to empower and educate tenants.
- Runs internship programmes with students from tertiary institutions.
- Provides placement for local and overseas post-graduate students
- Conducts research on the homeless community, tenants & crime issues.
- Help form flat & street committees.

VISION AND POLICY

The OCR as a community based NGO is committed to developing a better and just society by making a significant and distinctive contribution at regional, provincial and national levels through active grassroots involvement in improving

- (i) the condition of tenants and the homeless community
- (ii) the safety, security and health of residents.

These commitments are expressed through various programme interventions, advice, research, legal and paralegal intervention and representation, lobbying for positive changes, capacity building, education and empowerment.

SOME OF OCR'S ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◇ Organising, educating & empowering tenants, the homeless & residents.
- ◇ Founding member and co-ordinator of various anti-crime & redevelopment forums.
- ◇ Successful representations at rent board.
- ◇ Arbitration between landlord and tenants.
- ◇ On going discussions at central, provincial & local governments.
- ◇ Networking with civics and other relevant groups regionally, nationally and internationally.
- ◇ A major stakeholder on new legislation for landlords & tenants.
- ◇ Various High Court actions resulting in the:
 - ◇ reintroduction of rent boards nationally (1986); rent control in Warwick Avenue (1993)
 - ◇ reinstatement of displaced tenants
 - ◇ reconnection of services
 - ◇ took up the plight of fleamarket traders, exposed corruption, had the market master and officials removed.
 - ◇ addressed the plight of "sweatshop" tenants.

AT NATIONAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL

1984–1989: OCR was in the forefront for the abolition of the Group Areas Act and stopped the harassment of "mixed" couples.

1995–1999: Brought about changes in the composition of rent boards.

1995–1999: OCR made substantial contribution to introduce landlord-tenant law (the Rental Housing Act 50 of 1999); served on the national task team to advise the Minister of Housing on related matters.

2000–2002: Contributed to protecting the rights of sectional title owners (Local Government Property Rates Bill



PATRONS: Internationally renowned stalwarts have become patrons of the OCR: The most reverend Archbishop Denis E. Hurley, Archbishop Emeritus of Durban, Dr. Omaruddin Don Mattera and Mr. Billy Nair, MP

TRUSTEES: Prof. Leonard Gering, Prof. Suleman Dangor, Adv. Tayob Nazeer Aboobaker, SC, Ms. Sibongile Doreen Khuzwayo, Krubashen Moodley, Sibonelo Trustworth Ngubane and Lionel Grewen

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS: OFFICE BEARERS (AS AT 2002)



**Sayed Iqbal Mohamed,
Chairperson / Director**



**Thembelani Adam
Mncanywa,
Deputy Chairperson**



**Angel Paulsen,
General Secretary**



**David Jack,
Treasurer**

Elizabeth Mary Beekes (Betty):	Assistant Secretary
Yunus Goolam Mahomed Osman:	Assistant Treasurer
Krubashen M Moodley:	Legal Team Co-ordinator

OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Beauty Linda, Yunus Naby, Vusumuzi Jerome Mkize, Ismail Mansoor

PROFILE: CHAIRPERSON: Sayed Iqbal Mohamed

Iqbal is the founding member of the Organisation of Civic Rights (OCR) which was formed in 1984 and has served as an active member since. He was a Durban Metropolitan Councillor (1998-2000). He presently serves as a member on the KZN Rental Housing Tribunal and heads the OCR.

Iqbal has majored in 1980 in Psychology, Arabic and Islamic Studies; BA (Honours) in Arabic *cum laude* (1981); BA (Honours) in Islamic Studies (1982) and MA in Religious and social Transformation, *cum laude* (2002: Rights & Obligations of Landlords and Tenants...) – UDW. He also holds Certificate of Estate Agency (1984); Certificate in Housing Policy Development & Management Programme (2000:WITS-UDW) and Property Education Programme (2000: South African Property Owners Association). He is presently studying for a Phd in Social Transformation (UDW). Iqbal has several merit awards to his credit and is also an Ashoka Fellow (a USA based Institution of social entrepreneurs: Innovators for the Public). He has taught at government schools, written several books and has been involved in various community bodies dealing with redevelopment, crime and other social issues. He was director and supervisor of Internship Programme for law students of UDW through the OCR.

SYDENHAM HEIGHTS REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

What is going to happen at Sydenham Heights?

The Ethekwini Municipality has set aside about **R9m** for the Sydenham Heights Redevelopment Project. It has engaged the services of the **Organisation of Civic Rights (OCR)** to facilitate the Sydenham Heights Redevelopment Project. The purpose of the project is: -

- ❑ to carry out repairs to flats and the buildings
- ❑ to improve the living conditions and environment for the people of Sydenham Heights,
- ❑ to facilitate home ownership.
- ❑ empower residents to manage their flats / units and the buildings

New lifts are going to be installed in the three blocks and there will be a general upgrade and reconstruction of the three blocks. It is envisaged that the project would take up to 6 months to complete. The installation of the lifts could take longer.

The role of the OCR would be to facilitate the project with the Municipality's Housing Department, the Tenants Association of Sydenham Heights, the residents and other stakeholders and it would also ensure that the rights of the tenants and the body corporate are not violated.

On October 1, 2003, the OCR met with representatives of residents that included TASH and members of the body corporate. A working group was formed who together with representatives of Ethekwini Municipality and other stakeholders will work in the interest of the residents of Sydenham Heights.

MEMBERS OF THE SYDENHAM HEIGHTS WORKING GROUP (FORMED ON 01:10:2003)

Chair: Ms. Zelda Norris

NAME	SURNAME	FLAT NO.
Moira	Biggar	A 301
Isobel		
Verona	Paul	C 4
Priscilla Barbara	Lupke	B 404
Frances	Naidoo	B 605
Deon	Janneker	B 912
Achmat	Alli	C 95
Jesse	Dicken	C 145
Roy	Smith	C 108
Zelda	Norris	C 44

OCR SURVEY AND FIELDWORKERS

The Organisation of Civic Rights (OCR) needs to have information from each household (flat / unit). We need to know what your problems are, who are unemployed and what skills people have. The Ethekwini Municipality wants to provide short-term employment to the residents who do not have jobs to work at the Sydenham Heights project. A survey is going to be conducted in Sydenham Heights and it is essential that everyone respond. The results of the survey will help us, the OCR, to facilitate the project and will empower the residents. The following people will be conducting the survey. These fieldworkers will ask you questions and your response and co-operation is important.



**Thembelani Adam Mncanywa,
Deputy Chairperson: OCR
Survey Co-ordinator**



**Vusumuzi Jerome Mkize
Executive Member of OCR**



Bonga Ndlovu



Thandi Patricia Ndlovu



Thami Zwane



Jeffrey Sithole



Hamid Adams



Cornelius Ngidi



Muhle Zuma



Khumbulani Zulu



Qamarariya Adams

