



23 June 2023

Dear Residents,

## **RE: CEDAR LAKES WHAT'S UP FACEBOOK PAGE – RECENT FRAUD**

It has come to our attention that the Cedar Lakes WhatsUp page has been used by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party as a platform to perpetrate a fraud on a resident. We have been in contact with the parties concerned and are working to support them.

Immediately after the fraud was uncovered it was brought to the attention of the CLHOA, that residents are unaware of the status of various Facebook pages and who manages and controls these.

We wish to be clear that the only official Facebook page managed and controlled by the CLHOA is the **Cedar Lakes Estate HOA Jhb, SA.**

The CLHOA does not own, manage or control any other Facebook pages and these are owned and controlled by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties. In particular the CLHOA does not own or control the following Facebook pages, which are run by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties who are not affiliated with the management of the CLHOA:

- Cedar Lakes – What's up
- Cedar Lakes Buzz
- Cedar Lakes Residents – Local Business & Second hand Sales

We have since the fraud, established that the perpetrator attempted to gain membership to the official CLHOA page multiple times but was rejected as a result of our control measures to verify the members of our page.

We have also uncovered evidence that indicates the perpetrator may have accessed the Cedar Lakes What's Up Facebook page as far back as February 2023, where after there were attempts by the perpetrator to participate on other groups connected to that Facebook page. It therefore appears as if the individual has been engaging in a broader infiltration using various cybercrime tactics without the knowledge of the proprietors of the page.

### **Directors:**

T Watson (*Chairman*), K Jones (*Vice Chairman*), J Naude, S McQuade,  
J Counihan

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The recent data protection legislation, POPIA and Cybercrimes Act are part and parcel of an evolving criminal landscape that seeks to protect South Africans where criminals use a variety of approaches to secure valuable personal information to then manipulate or further criminal goals. The CHLOA has employed a consultant to review our POPIA processes and governance, and to advise on any improvements we could implement. This is an ongoing process and is part of our management actions.

Unfortunately, it seems that non-CLHOA websites or Facebook pages do not always review or employ security and data protection mechanisms to protect their members.

We urge all residents to please be alert and protect their personal information. Personal information should only be shared with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties that are known to you and when necessary and you should share only the minimum information needed for an interaction. If you are uncertain, rather do not share your personal information and approach an engagement as if you are dealing with a criminal.

If any residents have questions, please reach out to Stewart McQuade as our Security Director ([security@cedarlakes.co.za](mailto:security@cedarlakes.co.za)).

Thank you,

CLHOA