

Councillor Newsletter

Office of the Executive Mayor City of Johannesburg

Welcome to the 32nd Councillor Newsletter!

The days of copper cable thieves in Johannesburg are coming to an end

On Wednesday, I led an inspection of seized City infrastructure allegedly stolen by unscrupulous scrapyards owners. I was accompanied by Members from my Mayoral Committee, the City's Specialised Investigations Unit and JMPD. The purpose of the inspection was to see first-hand how these criminal syndicates operate, and showcase the effects that their dealings have on our City. When stealing our copper cables, these criminals sabotage our economy and our City, leaving businesses and homes in the dark, costing ratepayers a fortune and robbing resources from service delivery. It is estimated that 45% of the power outages in the City are caused by cable theft, and this latest incident has plunged a large part of the Inner City into darkness.

A total of 22 suspects have been arrested, and were able to recover some of the stolen cable and infrastructure belonging to the City. We must be clear that these cable thieves operate in organised crime syndicates. To combat this, the City will be introducing a specialised JMPD unit whose exclusive focus will be to target these syndicates who deal in stolen copper cables.

In an effort to combat cable theft, City Power has initiated a process of replacing copper conductor cables with aluminum conductor cables. Criminals target copper cables by digging it up to sell to scrap metal dealers, but aluminum has little to no street value. The expansive footprint of the utility's network makes it very difficult to safeguard all the installations and the City relies on the co-operation of the communities we serve to report incidents of theft and vandalism of the electricity infrastructure so that perpetrators can be brought to book.

Power is expected to be restored over the course of this weekend. The City Power team is currently on schedule with the repair work and will continue to work on a 24hour basis until electricity is restored to all affected residents in the City of Johannesburg.

Updates are available on [Twitter @citypowerjhb](#)

Residents are urged to [report information relating to theft and vandalism](#) of City property to the [City of Johannesburg's Hotline: 0860 562 874](#).



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MMC Stakeholders

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Kutlwano Olifant 011 - 407 7208 kutlwanoo@joburg.org.za

CORPORATE AND SHARED SERVICES

Karabo Seane 011 407 6400 karabosea@joburg.org.za

DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Poppy Louw 011 407 6695 PoppyL@Joburg.org.za

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Andrew Stewart AndrewSte@joburg.org.za

ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Vijay Moodley 011 587 4219 vijaym@joburg.org.za

FINANCE

Lesego Ngobeni 011 628 4508 LesegoNg@joburg.org.za

HOUSING

Buntukazi Xuba 011 018 6776 BubuX@joburg.org.za

PUBLIC SAFETY

Luyanda Longwe 011 758 9505 LuyandaLo@joburg.org.za

TRANSPORT

Tebogo Mogashoa 011 298 5269 tebogomoga@joburg.org.za

Suspected crime can be reported to

JMPD

011 375 5911 or 080 075 3342

SAPS

10111

JMPD 24hour Traffic Hotline

080 872 3342

JOBURG WATER

24 hour Hotline

011 375 5555/ 0860 562 874

SMS line

082 653 2143

Email

Customer@jwater.co.za

PIKITUP

Report Illegal Dumping

0860 562874 / 011 375 5555

Email

Info@pikitup.co.za

DOWNLOAD

Rea Vaya Mobile App

Vaya Moja App

On Play Store or App Store

DOWNLOAD

City Power Mobile App

MyCityPower App

On Play Store or App Store

DOWNLOAD

Joburg Roads Agency Mobile App

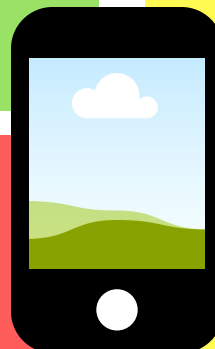
Find and Fix App

On Play Store or App Store

ANTI-CORRUPTION HOTLINE

We are all responsible for ensuring we stamp out corruption.

0800 002 587



CITY POWER

Call Center

086 056 2874

SMS Line

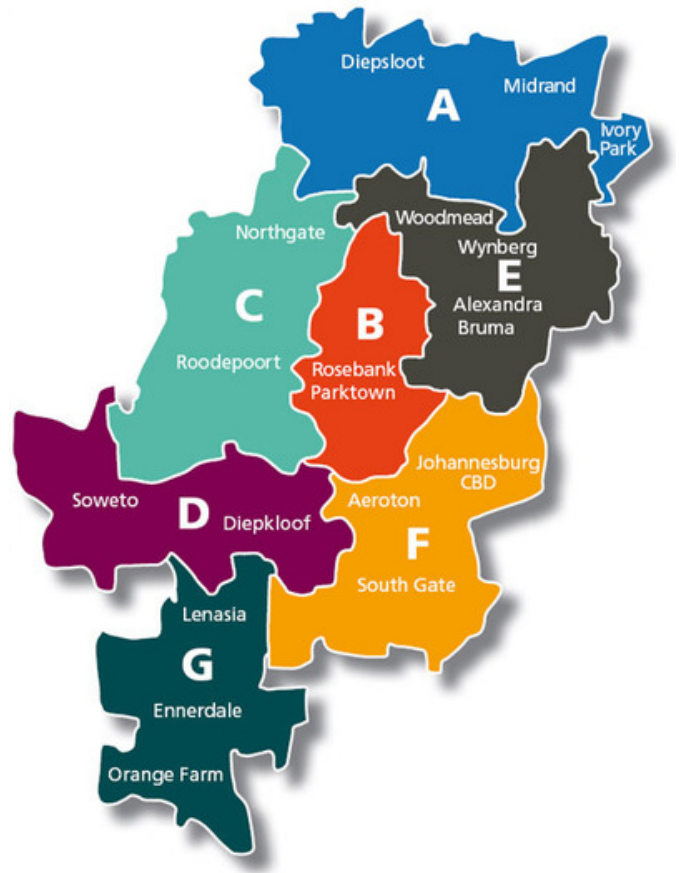
44074

E-mail

estimations@citypower.co.za

Political Heads for each of the City's regions

- Region A: Cllr Michael Sun
- Region B: Cllr Ntombi Khumalo (Dr.)
- Region C: Cllr Leah Knott
- Region D: Cllr Nonhlanhla Sifumba
- Region E: Cllr Nico de Jager
- Region F: Cllr Funzela Ngobeni
- Region G: Cllr Mzobanzi Ntuli



Some of our MMCs are also on Twitter!



- Cllr Nonhlanhla Sifumba: @NonnysZA
- Cllr Mpho Phalatse: @mphophalatse1
- Cllr Nico de Jager: @NicoDeJager64
- Cllr Michael Sun: @MichaelSun168
- Cllr Funzela Ngoben: @FunzelaZA
- Cllr Rabelani Dagada: @Rabelani_Dagada
- Cllr Valencia Khumalo: @NVKhumalo



Region B - Ward Councillor Forum

Accountability, transparency, consultation and engagement are the hallmarks of a democratic government. It is against this background that this DA-led government has identified Ward Council Forums as critical platforms to ensure accountability and engagement between the Executive and councillors serving within specific wards.

Councillors are the conduits for service delivery in communities they serve. Ward Councillors have their eyes and ears on the ground and know the conditions of the communities they serve. They are a critical stakeholder in the activities of the City of Johannesburg.

As usual, Region B held its Forum to provide feedback on ongoing projects, existing and new plans and to test some of the ideas on how to expedite service to the people. The Forum was held on the 30 August 2017 at Marks Sports Park in Emmarentia. Thank you to Cllr Bridget Steer who chaired the meeting on my behalf.

The majority of municipal owned entities were represented. The attendance of entities is critical for this meeting. It makes our response to the pertinent issues timeous and helps to foster and harness good working relationship between Councillors and these entities. It was not surprising, therefore, that the growing number of entities attending the WCF was noted and appreciated by Councillors. However more still needs to be done.

A City Employee, Urban Inspector Mr. Solomon Mokgako from Ward 82 was nominated for a Service with Pride award. This kind of acknowledgement is critical to our service delivery agenda. It is our way of celebrating excellence and encouraging staff to do even better. Hopefully, it will go a long way to encourage others to emulate this good example and to take pride in their service to the people of Johannesburg.

City celebrates casual day

It is a tradition to celebrate Casual Day on the first day of every September, and this year was no different. However, on this day we also reflect on our journey towards achieving an inclusive society.

It is a day to ponder about a better future for our society – a society based on values of equality and care for one another. We also cast a spotlight on the binding constraints that hinders our efforts to building an inclusive and diverse society.

It is for these reasons that this year's City of Johannesburg's Casual Day was hosted under the theme "Celebrate diversity with persons with disabilities", precisely to highlight our efforts as the City to making the workplace environment inclusive and diverse.

I have thus urged the event organisers – the Employment Equity Unit within the Human Resources Department - to ensure that policies are adhered to and job adverts made more accessible in all formats so as not to exclude for people with disabilities.





The City of Johannesburg has declared war on drugs

In an effort to fight the scourge, the City will hold an anti-drug summit on September 21 at the Diepkloof Welfare Centre, Region D, to unveil its multi-pronged strategy.

More than 400 stakeholders have been invited to the summit. They include, among others, departments in the city and province, law enforcement agencies, non-governmental organisations in the drug prevention and treatment space and the private sector.

This administration has declared war on drugs. We're rolling out five new outpatient facilities in areas such as Tladi, Eldorado Park, Westbury, River Park in Alex and the inner city.

For a long time we've done our people in. Young people are caught up in the horrific cycle of abuse and that must come to a stop.

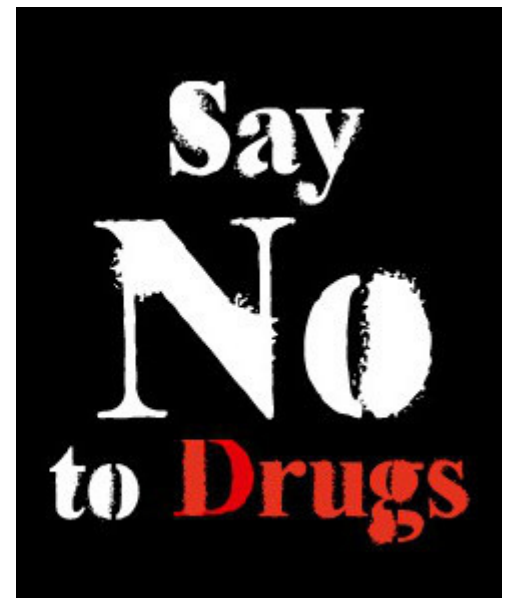
Drug addicts are not only dealing with their drug problems, but with the latest method of sharing drugs such as the so-called "Bluetooth" method during which addicts exchange blood, increasing their risks of contracting blood-borne diseases.

Our community health workers will be trained on how to assist with recruitment and referral. Drug users are our regular patients as they are exposed to more diseases since they don't get proper health care. Drug abuse is a disease on its own.

Many of the addicts want to quit but they don't know where to turn to in terms of detoxing. What makes it worse is that the withdrawal symptoms are unbearable. They say it feels as though they are dying. Therefore facilities will be offering drug detox services as well.

There will also be a 24-hour crisis line that will be linked to the city's emergency call centres that will deal strictly with drug abuse.

Community members are also urged to report drug dealing in their neighbourhoods in order to help rid the City of drugs and encourage addicts to make use of these facilities and help build a healthier Joburg.





The City of Joburg ushers in Heritage Month

September is marked as Heritage Month, and South Africans celebrate their rich cultural and historical inheritance. A signature event to celebrate the rich tapestry of the people of South Africa and Johannesburg in particular, is the Arts Alive International Festival, which is celebrating 25 years of showcasing the best of Johannesburg and what it represents in the arts, culture and heritage space through music, dance, poetry, writing, exhibitions, concerts, dialogues and theatre.

To ensure access to residents, this was supported by a media launch for the public in the main foyer at Joburg Theatre which commenced at 10h00. Different media houses were invited with live performances from Arts Alive artists who gave the audience a taste of what to expect throughout the whole month. Performances included Alaine and Deane Fraser; Tlale Makhene; Tubatsi Mpho Maloi and Urban Village; and Mthwakazi and Ensemble from the Cape Gate Magic Centre for Music.

The foyer in the lower level of the theatre was transformed into an art and craft market where small local entrepreneurs exhibited their wares. On Sunday, 3 September, Zoo Lake was the place to be to enjoy the Jazz on the Lake. Entry to the event was free to ensure access to the diverse people of Johannesburg. Free public transport was organized from central points to ease the congestion around Zoo Lake, and to ensure safety and enjoyment of the event.

Performances for the day included local artists Nduduzo Makhathini, Sibongile Khumalo, Amanda Black, Queen Cora, and Jamaican Alaine and Dean Fraser.

Other activities taking place this weekend:

8 – 10 September	The South African Book Fair	15:00	Museum Africa, Newtown
9 September	Ruimsig Youth Event	11:00 – 14:00	Cosmo City Multi-Purpose Centre

Swimming Pool Season Opened on 1st September

The City of Johannesburg has prioritised offering services in a way that seeks redress and reaches out to the forgotten people of the City.

When the swimming pool season for 2017 officially opened on Friday, 1 September, 42 of the community pools across all seven regions opened to the public. An additional five opened on 8 September, three will open by 15 September 2017, while four will open later in the swimming season. This is a remarkable improvement to the 27 pools that were opened in the beginning of the swimming season last year.

I thank the members of staff in my department who worked tirelessly to ensure that the people of Johannesburg are afforded this opportunity to enjoy the City's facilities.

I encourage the community to participate in the programmes that will be implemented in these pools including swimming galas, Learn to Swim programmes, Lifesaving Training Programmes, and Water Aerobics. I also urge all the members of the public to practice safety and caution in the swimming pools and to abide by the City By-Laws to prevent any accidents in the pools.



Memorial service for Officer Meso

On 6 September 2017 Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department Officers held a wreath and memorial service for Officer Meso who passed last Friday 1 September 2017.

Officer Meso was on duty directing traffic between the intersection on Marlboro Drive and M1 onramp in Sandton when he was hit by a vehicle, who attempted to illegally overtake another vehicle. The suspect was arrested, charged with culpable homicide and will be appearing at the Randburg Magistrates Court.

Officer Meso served the City of Johannesburg diligently for 12 years, working in both Region A and E before his untimely death. The wreath laying was in remembrance of his commitment to his work, and the pride in which he executed his duties. Officer Meso is survived by his wife and three children, and will be laid to rest at the place of his birth in Limpopo this Saturday 9 September 2017.

Military explosives recovered by JMPD K9 Unit

On 6 September, the City's Police Department (JMPD) K9 Unit apprehended two suspects at Robertsham, south of Johannesburg in a joint operation with the Crime Intelligence (CIU). The CIU received information about a vehicle carrying explosives and asked JMPD K9 to intercept the vehicle.

JMPD K9 acted swiftly and arrested a male and a female suspect. On further investigations, it was discovered that there were three live mortar bombs hidden at the back of a Gauteng Enterprise Propeller branded vehicle. The vehicle is believed to be owned by the Gauteng Provincial government, whether the suspects are government employees is also being investigated.

Mortar bombs are often used by cash-in-transit heists as well as ATM bombing crimes.

It is reported that the mortar bombs could be sold for up to R450 000 if they were to fall into the wrong hands. Both suspects are detained at the Booyens Police Station to face serious criminal charges.

We will not make any room for criminals in our City, the quick reaction by JMPD is evidence of how serious we are about eradication of crime in our City. We will continue to enhance the synergy amongst all law enforcement agencies and ensure that criminals are sent packing to prisons.

EMS respond after wall collapse

The Department of Public Safety Emergency Management Services responded to a call at 07:00 On 6 September 2017 after a wall collapsed on 2nd Avenue and Louis Botha.

The wall gave way and fell onto oncoming traffic. Two taxis and a private vehicle were affected, and a total of 16 people were injured and rushed to the Busamedical Hospital in Modderfontain as well as at the Charlotte Maxeke Hospital.

Fortunately none of the victims suffered major injuries. Acting MMC Public Safety Nonhlanhla Sifumba visited the injured victims for support after such a traumatic event. SAPS are still investigating what caused the collapse.



We will not be deterred from delivering on our mandate to keep the streets of Johannesburg clean.

On Wednesday, Pikitup Management addressed members of the media on the violent protest by former Jozi@Work co-operatives who have vandalised city property, looted shops, assaulted a Pikitup employee, and threatened and harassed many others over the course of the past seven days.

Former Jozi@Work employees have been on the rampage for the past week, after demands for permanent employment has been turned down. What is upsetting is that Pikitup workers are prevented from discharging their responsibility of ensuring that the city is kept clean. This has a direct impact on growing jobs, as Johannesburg cannot lure investment back to the inner city when lawlessness are causing havoc on our streets.

Being unable to clean the compiling waste has serious health implications to residents, and having to make use of additional resources and cleaning shifts is costing the City R50 000 per day.

In May this year, the three-month Pikitup contracts signed by former Jozi@Work beneficiaries through the City's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), expired. We wish to reiterate that the we have been clear about the temporary and rotational nature of the contracts and have at no point stated or implied that anyone would be entitled to an extension, or that the three-month contracts would result in full-time employment.

The Jozi@Work programme was a wolf in sheep's clothing, benefitting only the middlemen who were awarded multimillion-rand contracts to run projects. Through the City of Johannesburg's new approach to temporary work opportunities, residents will be given work opportunities directly through the City, and not through middlemen, thereby increasing the number of people who can fairly benefit from these work opportunities.

The additional R49,2 million which has been allocated to Pikitup through the adjustment budget in a bid to clean up our City, is wasted, if we are to use these funds to clean up after criminals. This means that our residents in the inner city, and informal settlements, are being robbed of the services they are entitled to.

Pikitup wishes to place it on record that its employees are not on strike. The entity has simply distanced itself from the incidences of vandalism, assault and hijacking of our trucks, perpetrated by former employees of the Jozi@Work programme.

We have reason to believe that this criminal behaviour is organised by a third party, as we have seen footage showcasing how these individuals are systematically dropped off at various locations, after which they vandalise city infrastructure, turn over our skips and hijack our waste removal trucks and dump the waste in the inner city.

As a result, Pikitup's cleaning schedule has been severely disrupted, and over the course of the past seven days we could only attempt to clean the mess left behind, under the watchful eye of the Johannesburg Metro Police Department (JMPD), in an effort to protect our employees.

Pikitup is also in possession of the registration numbers of other trucks that has been used by the third party to also disrupt services and discharge waste. The trucks used by Jozi@Work members do not belong to Pikitup. Pikitup is working with policing authorities to identify the owners of these vehicles in order to lay criminal charges against those responsible for disruptions to services and damage to property.

We will not be deterred from delivering on our mandate to keep the streets of Johannesburg clean. We are working closely with the JMPD and the Yeoville, Hillbrow and Central South African Police Service (SAPS), to ensure that our employees can work in safety, and that perpetrators are held to account.



City calls on communities to help protect local sanitation facilities

I would like to appeal to communities throughout Johannesburg to take shared ownerships of infrastructure facilities made available by the City for the purpose of improving the lives of residents. It has come to my attention that there is a notion that communal ablutions facilities do not need to be looked after by residents making use of them. This is far from the truth.

The City, within its available means, removes waste and services communal chemical toilets within communities up to three times a week so as to provide some assistance to communities whom would otherwise be left without services. Chemical toilets are provided in informal settlements which have not been converted into formally declared townships.

Joburg Water's on-site inspectors also conduct routine inspections of these facilities in order to assess their condition and protect the safety of those using them. Any defects found are reported to the relevant contractor for correction. In addition to this, I appeal to communities to take ownership of the facilities provided by keeping the facilities clean after use and reporting vandalism of the facilities to Joburg Water.

With a housing backlog of over 300 000 units, and an infrastructure backlog of R170 billion, we need communities to work with our entities such as Joburg Water and Pikitup, to ensure that we take ownership of communal taps, combat illegal dumping and ensure the proper use of communal facilities while we work to turn years of neglect in buildings, and maintenance of City infrastructure, around.

For this reason Joburg Water, Pikitup and City Power will be conducting awareness campaigns in communities about taken ownership of their surroundings.

[The City has also made the following allocations available over the course of the next three financial years to ensure we enhance service delivery in our informal settlements:](#)

- As part of Joburg Water's budget, R40 Million is set aside to enhance sanitation in our informal settlements.
- As part of the 2017/18 financial year, R162.7 million is to be allocated to providing electricity and water connections to poor residents in informal settlements throughout the city.
- R482 million has been set aside within Pikitup's budget for cleaning informal settlements over the next three financial years – R150 million is to be spent in 2017/18 alone.
- We have allocated R574 million of capital expenditure and R115 million of operational expenditure for the upgrading of 10 informal settlements throughout the City in the 2017/18 financial year.
- A total of 51 informal settlements will be upgraded over the medium term. Ten informal settlements will be upgraded in the 2017/18 financial year. Another 20 informal settlements are to be upgraded in 2018/2019 and 21 informal settlements in 2019/2020.

As a City, we are doing our utmost best to deliver quality services to our residents within the budget we have available. However, we cannot keep our City clean without the help of our residents.

I implore residents to report damage to infrastructure to [Joburg Water's 24-hour Hotline: 011 375 5555/ 0860 562 874](#)



City launches the R674 million public transport loop

On Tuesday, Mayor Mashaba and I officially launched the much anticipated R674 million Sandton public transport loop. This upgrade will not only mean that traffic congestion will decline within the Sandton precinct but access to one of the City's largest economic hubs will be improved for residents in Alexandra and the rest of the City.

For over two years the City has been active in and around Sandton to improve sidewalks, build two new bridges over the M1 to improve connectivity between Alexandra and Sandton, paving the way for the introduction of Rea Vaya services as well as constructing a dedicated public transport loop around the Sandton CBD.

The revitalization of road space through infrastructural investment in Sandton is critical to economic growth of the City.

The dedicated public transport lane will be operationalized in partnership with the Gautrain; PUTCO; Metrobus and mini bus taxis to improve access for public transport, reduce travelling times and making it more convenient to travel.

This dedicated public transport lane, called the Sandton Public Transport Loop is along Rivonia Road, Fredman Drive and 5th Street and includes stops and shelters with information for passengers as to which bus stops where. It will start operations on 18th September and in the initial period will be seeking public feedback on whether it is meeting its intended objective.

The launch of the Sandton Public Transport Loop, a Bridge over the M1 at Lees Street and other road infrastructure projects today, are all part of the Sandton Transport Master Plan that is being implemented in partnership with Sandton Central Management District.

It is also forms part of the introduction of the next phase of Rea Vaya to Alexandra, Sandton and Midrand through Louis Botha Avenue from Hillbrow and improved public transport facilities in the area that includes the following:

- 17 additional new Rea Vaya stations;
- A public transport interchange next to Pan Africa in Alexandra;
- Upgrading of surrounding roads, sidewalks and intersections.

Since the inception of the road infrastructure projects, the City of Johannesburg has spent approximately R226 million in the Sandton/Alexandra area and created over 149 jobs.

The decades-long neglect of infrastructure maintenance means there is still a huge mountain to climb to effectively address our City's ageing roads and traffic challenges.

However, this administration is committed to addressing the City's challenges for the benefit of all our residents.





39 CBD Traffic Intersections Affected After Fire Damages Power Cables

The Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) has embarked on contingency measures in collaboration with Johannesburg Metro Police Department (JMPD) by placing points-people at critical traffic light intersections in the Johannesburg Central Business District (CBD), following a fire at the City Power Central Substation at the weekend caused by cable thieves.

City officials are assessing the fire damage which has disrupted the power supply including power feed to traffic light intersections in parts of the CBD, Jeppestown, Berea and surrounding areas.

A total of 39 signalised intersections are at present experiencing outages caused by the fire damage to power cables.

JMPD points-people will assist in traffic control and ensure congestion is minimised. Engagements are underway with City Power to fast track repairs and replacement of the damaged power cables.

The sabotage of the City's infrastructure which affects essential services when traffic lights are no longer working will not be tolerated. Perpetrators responsible for aiding and abetting will face the full might of law.

As part of the multipronged approach to counteract theft and vandalism, JRA's Infrastructure Protection Unit (IPU) has established a working relationship with JMPD to enforce City Bylaws.

Members of the public are requested to [report information relating to theft and vandalism of City property to the City of Johannesburg's Hotline: 0860 562 874.](#)





Joburg Fresh Produce Market

I was thrilled to visit the Joburg Market along with my team on Friday, 1 September. In addition to being the first day of the month and the beginning of Spring – it was also an exciting first day for Ayanda Kanana as the recently appointed CEO of the Joburg Market. Along with Board Members Livhu Nengovhela and Jan Mocke, we were all warmly welcomed by the management and staff and treated to a rousing performance by the resident Joburg Market choir. Our thanks go to the Joburg Market for their friendly hospitality and warm welcome!

JOBURG PROPERTY COMPANY (JPC)

Facilities Management

- o Following a condition assessment conducted at the end of the financial year ending June 2017, the Randburg Civic Centre is undergoing minor repairs and maintenance in the form of cutting and trimming trees; bush clearing; rubble removal, replacement of light fittings, cleaning of the Chamber; plumbing and electrical work.
- o There are six taxi ranks that are currently being refurbished: Big Ben on Homestead Avenue in Bryanston; Doornfontein, Faraday in the Inner City, Ikwezi, Jeppe and Midrand. The work being done involves roofing, paving, stall refurbishment and ablution facilities. These refurbishments will be to the benefit of commuters, taxi drivers and the residents of the area.
- o The facilities available to informal traders in Dobsonville are also being improved by the JPC. Phase One, which commenced in June 2017, is currently working on improving the wetlands issue. Once that is done, the preparation of Container Parks for the traders to operate from will be complete.

Property Management

- o A lease agreement was finalized between the City of Johannesburg and Tswaranang OVS in Kaalfontein, Midrand (Region A) for a period of 9 years and 11 months. Erf 1153 is owned by the City of Johannesburg and will be utilised as an Early Childhood Development (ECD) facility.



Property Development

- o JPC is facilitating the refurbishment and upgrade at Proton House, in Roodeport. The work have commenced and are to be completed by the end of September.
- o The JPC is facilitating numerous refurbishments and upgrades across the Metro Centre between now and November 2017. The upgrades are necessary in order to keep the facilities up to standard.
- o Phase One of the Piazza will be open to the public as of this week. The southern side of the Piazza will also be completed under Phase Two.
- o After the first week of September, the public will have access to the jungle gym, toilets, chess board, AstroTurf and sitting area.

Asset Management

- o An Inner City tour was conducted with the Chairperson of the JPC Transactions Committee to visit ten properties identified as potentials to be recommended for packaging and release to the private sector for development of retail, residential, and office space. These properties are located in Berea, the Inner City, Jeppestown and Yeoville



Draft Land Use Scheme Public Participation

Consultation sessions forming part of the Draft City of Johannesburg Land Use Scheme public participation were held in all regions this week, with residents coming to listen and give their input on this important piece of legislation which is intended to do away with the City's 16 outdated Town Planning Schemes.

Those who have not engaged with the draft scheme are encouraged to do so and, if they have any comments, submit them ahead of the 13 October 2017 deadline.

Copies of the draft Land Use Scheme will lie open for inspection during normal office hours until 13 October 2017 at:

- Help Desk, 5th Floor, A-Block, Metropolitan Centre, 158 Civic Boulevard, Braamfontein;
- the Group Legal & Contracts Department's Legal Library at the same address on the 3rd Floor, A-Block;
- All Council Libraries and Regional offices throughout the City;
- On the City's website: www.joburg.org.za (under "key documents" then "development").

Any comment on the draft Land Use Scheme must be addressed to the Executive Director: Development Planning, clearly marked "CoJ LUS COMMENTS", and submitted in writing on, or before 13 October 2017, as follows:

- By hand to the Help Desk at the physical address provided above;
- By post (PO Box 30773, Johannesburg, 2017);
- By e-mail : CoJLandUseSchemeComments@joburg.org.za or
- By Google Forms: <https://goo.gl/forms/jsK9A1hmThMO6vYs2>

Joburg Development Agency (JDA) Special Announcements

- Congratulations to Development Manager, Shaakira Chohan, who was nominated in the Pioneer of Innovation category of the Women in Construction Awards, sponsored by NHBRC. Although she did not make it to the final selection, she ought to receive recognition for her hard work and being nominated. The selection was based on her work towards creating co-productive, responsive designs within the JDA's work context, and the development of effective public participatory tools, with a special focus on the work done in Noordgesig.
- The JDA was recently listed as finalist in the prestigious Business and Arts South Africa Awards, in recognition for its My-Alex – Youth Perception of Place project. Now in its 20th year, the BASA Awards is the only awards ceremony that acknowledges business support of and partnerships in the arts in South Africa. The awards further recognise and encourage excellence and innovation in the field of business support for the arts. The JDA, finalist in the Strategic Project Award category, is amongst 44 finalists, of which winners will be announced on 18 September.
- Another congratulations is in order for the JDA which recently received an award from the South African Institute of Civil Engineers (SAICE) for the most outstanding project in each of the awarded divisions in the Structural Engineering category. Well done to the BRT/Portfolio C team for outstanding work!



Sandton Steps Up Launch Event

This week saw the launch of the Sandton Public Transport Loop, a project implemented by the Johannesburg Development Agency, which is expected to create nearly 300 000 employment opportunities and provide efficient movement around Sandton.

The cooperation and strategic partnerships established through this project enabled the City to achieve its celebrated milestones.

I would like to acknowledge my fellow MMC for Transport, Cllr Nonhlanhla Makhuba, for providing the political oversight and strategic direction in ensuring the City provides transport infrastructure that is responsive to the needs of our commuters.

I would like to also extend the City's gratitude to the Transport Directorate for seeing the plans for the project through, and wish them luck as they pilot the public transport loop in two weeks.

A further thank you goes out to the Gautrain Management Agency, PUTCO, Metrobus, Rea Vaya and the Eastern Transport Liaison Committee, for working with the Transport Department to change their routes and participate in the pilot, which we hope will be in the interest of commuters and residents.

The professional manner in which the Johannesburg Development Agency (JDA) undertook its role in implementing the project, along with their contractors, did not go unnoticed.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Region E for its efforts in mobilising the community and ensuring active participation in the City's stakeholder processes.

Finally, a huge thank you to the Executive Mayor and the entire Mayoral Committee for their exceptional leadership that continues to ensure that the City implements projects aimed at improving the lives of road users, and residents of Johannesburg, because, if Johannesburg work, South Africa works.





The City of Johannesburg regrets the postponement of the second instalment of the current administration's #BillingOpenDay, due to unforeseen work stoppages in the Revenue Shared Service Centre.

Employees in that unit of the City initially abandoned their workstations on Friday, 25 August 2017 following the arrest of staff members on allegations of fraud and corruption.

I met with staff on Monday to empathise with those who had claimed to have been traumatised by the arrest of their colleagues and offered my support, whilst urging them to return to work. I acknowledged that the arrests that happened in full view of media cameras came as a shock to everyone who witnessed the incident. I emphasised that criminal matters are always dealt with confidentially until accused persons appear in court; however, this did not absolve the City from allowing law enforcement authorities to do their work, unhindered.

I committed myself to taking the necessary steps to ensure that workers suspected of wrongdoing will no longer be arrested in the workplace, in full view of their colleagues. I also assured staff that I value the support they have given to the current administration to deliver on the mandate of bringing change in Johannesburg and assured them that I will not allow allegations of fraud and corruption to taint the City's work.

I pleaded with staff to remain professional at all times in the execution of their duties and to desist from getting involved in irregularities in the workplace which may lead to criminal prosecution and dismissal. I also urged them to return to work within 24 hours, which ended on Tuesday, 29 August 2017. Despite all of these precautionary steps, employees within the RSSC unit have embarked on an illegal work stoppage which has adversely affected the City's ability to collect its targeted R3-Billion rands in revenue for the month of August.

The City has since learned that following the arrest of 13 officials last week, 40 others have been implicated in wrongdoing. Group Forensic and Audit Services, working along with the Hawks are finalising this investigation and their arrest is imminent. Furthermore, the City will be working with the Asset and Forfeiture Unit (AFU) to recover monies allegedly embezzled by those implicated. It's important to note that the current work stoppages are not in compliance with requirements of the Labour Relations Act and that City employees involved will have no protection from dismissal under the act. Unequivocally, disciplinary action will be instituted against everyone involved.

All staff is therefore advised that:

- Those involved in the work stoppage are considered NOT to be on duty
- The principle of "No work, No Pay" will apply to employees who participate in the work stoppage
- Official leave in terms of the conditions of service SHALL NOT be approved for the day of the work stoppage
- Employees calling in sick during the work stoppage must provide a valid doctor's note as proof of illness. If a sick note is not provided the "No work, No Pay" rule will be applied and disciplinary action may be taken

The City supports the right of workers to strike as enshrined in the Constitution. However, workers should always be cautious and responsible in exercising this right, ensuring that it doesn't infringe on the liberties others. The City cannot condone the flagrant disregard for labour regulations. We are working to normalise the situation, so that the City can continue the delivery of quality basic service to all the people of Johannesburg.

Customers are encouraged to use other Service Centres in all the Regions of the City to resolve lingering billing woes. An announcement will be made soon on the date for the next Billing Open Day.