

## SECTION 79 COMMITTEE: HOMELESS AGENCY COMMITTEE

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1. ITEM NUMBER: **HOMAC 04/06/20**
2. SUBJECT

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH  
2020**

*BEKRAGTIGING VAN DIE NOTULE VAN 'N VERGADERING GEHOU OP 11  
MAART 2020*

**ISIQINISEKISO SEMIZUZU YENTLANGANISO EYAYIBANJWE NGOWE-  
11 EYOKWINDLA 2020**

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The minutes are attached for confirmation by the Homeless Agency Committee.

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**MINUTES**

**OF THE HOMELESS AGENCY PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE HELD IN MEETING ROOM A, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, PODIUM BLOCK, CIVIC CENTRE, 12 HERTZOG BOULEVARD, CAPETOWN ON WEDNESDAY, 11 MARCH 2020 AT 10:00**

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**PRESENT:****COMMITTEE MEMBERS****DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (DA)**

Cllr N Mahangu (Chairperson)  
Cllr B Madikane (Deputy Chairperson)  
Cllr R Adams  
Cllr B Clarke  
Cllr X Qweshu  
Cllr C Janse van Rensburg  
Cllr J McCarthy  
Cllr P Nyakaza-Sandla  
Cllr C Visser

**AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC)**

Cllr R Simbuku (arrived at 10:15)  
Cllr M Velem

**ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS (EFF)**

Cllr S Mologo

**LEGAL**

Ms O Meyer

**INTERPRETER**

Mr S Gxilishe

**ABSENT WITH APOLOGY**

Cllr P Francke  
Cllr R Quintas

**ABSENT WITHOUT APOLOGY**

Cllr S Nqamnduku

**OFFICIALS:**

A Sauls

Director: Social Development & Early Childhood Development

T Blake	Director: Revenue, Revenue
S September	Head: Research
M Banjwa	Head: Social Cohesion & Social Entrepreneur, Social Development & Early Childhood Development
C Davis	Head: Area 1, Property Management
S Brice	Head: Cemetery Management, Recreation and Parks
N du Toit	Manager: Social Development & Early Childhood Development
R Wootton	Manager: Business Integration & Valuations
N Adams	Departmental Support Services Manager: City Health
L Strauss	Professional Officer: Early Childhood Development
N Matshayana	Assistant Professional Officer: Early Childhood Development
P Cookson	Professional Officer, Social Development & Early Childhood Development

### **CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

A Meiring	Shelter Forum Alternate
H Khan	Shelter Forum Alternate
C Martinus	NGO Forum Main Representative
P Eddy	CCID Social Development

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SERVICES**

J Cooper	Executive Committee Services
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### **HOMAC 01/03/20 OPENING AND PRAYER / MOMENT OF SILENCE**

The meeting started at 10:00. The Chairperson welcomed all those present to the meeting and requested a moment of silence.

### **HOMAC 02/03/20 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**RESOLVED** that it be noted that the following apologies were received from the Office of the Chief Whip:

Cllr P Francke  
Cllr R Quintas

**ACTION: J COOPER**

### **HOMAC 03/03/20 CHAIRPERSONS REPORT OR ADDRESS**

A direct translation of the Chairperson's report follows hereunder:

“Good day Councilors, officials who are here in their professional capacity, shelter representatives, Acting Executive Director and Mayco member.

Colleagues once again welcome everybody. Going forward I will be

sharing good stories and of course negative hints that are highlights in the month.

Let me start with the negative hints:

Some of you might have read in yesterday and today's papers that there is a noise about the pedestrian bridge in the Golden Acre, which is deteriorating. Traders are complaining that it has been taken over by vagrants and criminals using drugs. Today's front page of The Argus featured the article "Number increasing of the destitute". The Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Hopkins, responded saying that people come and go and I fully agree. Pat Eddy of the CCID also responded on the lack of bed spaces in shelters and safe spaces.

The following are the good stories that I would like to share:

I am happy to announce that there is a Nurse on site at the Culenborg Safe Space who was appointed from 2 March 2020. Part of her duties include ensuring that people on chronic medication are compliant. There are also two pregnant ladies, one of the ladies is carrying triplets, who are under the care of a nurse. There are up to 24 people who are receiving medical support.

Another female client arrived on 15 October 2019 and after being unsuccessful in obtaining EPWP employment, was employed at an Engen garage in order to save money to go back home to King Williams Town.

Another male client, after saving some funds, was assisted in finding accommodation at District 6 Haven Night Shelter, while being employed on his second EPWP contract.

**TEAM NORTH**

Team North is continuing with their development program in Camps Bay and are to reduce the aggressive begging and vagrants.

**TEAM SOUTH**

The South pilot Developmental Intervention Close is to be evaluated, however there is evidence that confirms that the program is yielding great results. Many people are reintegrated and are attending the Matrix Clinic.

**TEAM EAST**

A client who was found in the Kuils River hotspot area was reunited with his family, after being employed on a short term EPWP contract. A 39-year-old and a 60-year-old were found in Somerset West after spending three days on the street, they were placed at a Shelter. The Team is continuing with pink bibs and development programs with the Strand Neighborhood Watch.

Thank you to Cllr Nqamnduku for alerting me on the issue of the homeless people at Joe Gqabi. I immediately informed the Manager

and the Acting Head, who informed me that the area falls under the PRASA jurisdiction and the matter is being attended to.

Colleagues we are making progress, however there is a lot of work still to be done in order to decrease the number of homeless people and we need all Departments and the community to be on board.

I thank you.

***Councillor Mahangu***

The Chairperson announced that all parking requests and details should be forwarded to J Cooper, for future meetings.

Cllr Adams queried whether the issues regarding providing proper shelter and hot water for the occupants at the Culenborg Safe Space has been attended to. He further enquired as to what measures was taken to relief the circumstances of the occupants, after the different site visits, as the report did not mention those issues.

A Meiring stressed the urgency of communicating with the Department of Correctional Services, after a few serious incidences were reported at shelters, in a matter of three months. She reported that two shelter residents were raped within two weeks after a parolee took occupancy at the shelter and another parolee pulled a knife on one of the EPWP workers at another shelter.

Cllr Manata enquired whether the profiles of the parolees are screened before being accepted at the shelters. She further stressed that contraceptives should be made available in order to eliminate unwanted pregnancies.

Cllr Velem queried whether the shelters are situated close to the business areas and whether the social workers are involved while the hall is being renovated.

Cllr Nyakaza-Sandla expressed her concern regarding the possible increase of erected shacks around the Goodwood train station area, by the homeless people.

Cllr McCarthy added that when parolees are released from prison, part of the parole officer's duty is to conduct weekly visits to the fixed address of the parolees, which is clearly not the case. She added that parolees are living on the street and questioned as to what recourse is put in place, through the justice system, to hold parole officers accountable.

Cllr Madikane stated that parolees are released into the communities, without notification from the justice system and that the justice system should be held responsible.

H Kahn responded the following, that:

- shelters do have processes in place to assess the risk of the

- parolees which are accommodated at the shelters;
- second chances for rehabilitation of parolees should be granted and collective punishment for parolees should be moved away from;
- a parolee gang member will never be safe in their township as the gang will not allow him/her to resign from their respective gangs;
- the court legitimised the City to use the By-Law to attend to the problem of refugees taking over of public spaces in order to reduce the problem;
- public health is becoming increasingly important in terms of the COVID-19 epidemic and that City officials should start preparing a response as to how homeless people will be guarded.

Cllr Clarke added that she is pleased that there is a nurse stationed at the Safe Space. She said the COVID-19 virus is a huge concern, especially to the field workers, as they are at a higher risk in contracting the virus. She added that a meeting should be scheduled with all the role players in order to eradicate the problems experienced with the parolees and that safe spaces should introduce a safety plan.

Cllr Visser enquired as to what rehabilitation processes the Correctional Services has put in place for young people who ends up in jail.

C Martinus added that the Portfolio, together with all the role players need to work together in order to create a preventative plan to create a safe space for the community and to work together with Correctional Services in order to do the ground work, as well as the developmental aspect for street people.

Cllr Qwesha suggested that a joint workshop be convened between HOMAC and the Safety and Security Portfolio, as the Law Enforcement removes street people without providing them with alternative accommodation.

A Sauls reported the following, that:

- an officer from the Correctional Services will be invited to the next meeting in order to answer questions around parolees and to inform the meeting as to how many parolees were released over the past few months;
- the water at the Cullenborg Safe Space will be connected before the end of June by the PMO office;
- a safe space is not a shelter, it is a transitional space before occupants are transported to a shelter and that the safe spaces will comply with the Health and Safety standards.

N du Toit added the following, that:

- repairs and maintenance at the safe spaces can only be completed by the PMO office and that all the matters of concern will be followed up;
- based on the outcome of an environmental health inspection

which was conducted, it was recommended to employ a nurse on site;

- Dr Igsham Kassiem, as well as the professional nurse has volunteered their services and will be at the Safe Space as from 2 March 2020.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the Chairpersons report or address be noted;
- (b) that a joint workshop be convened between HOMAC and the Safety and Security Portfolio to discuss the reason why Law Enforcement officers removes street people without providing them with alternative accommodation;
- (c) an officer from the Correctional Services to be invited to the next meeting in order to answer questions around parolees who are released in communities and to inform the meeting as to how many parolees were released.

**ACTION: A SAULS**

**HOMAC 04/03/20**

**MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION: 12 FEBRUARY 2020**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2020, was confirmed subject to the following amendments, that:

- the word **PRESENTATION** be corrected under item HOMAC 07/02/20.

**ACTION: J COOPER**

**HOMAC 05/03/20**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**1. PRESENTATION ON THE SAFE SPACE AREAS: IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT (HOMAC 08/02/20)**

Cllr J McCarthy referred to the site inspection that had taken place to negate the site's potential (Erf 38255 - Area North/ Table View) and added that the correct Erf number was identified. She added that Mr J Brand, Subcouncil Manager: Subcouncil 3 has been requested to arrange a site visit involving the Ward Councillors in that regard in order to have their feedback / input on such feasibility study.

Cllr Clarke requested that presentations be forwarded to Committee Members timeously and that questions be forwarded to the appropriate officials before the meeting in order to be more efficient.

**RESOLVED** that a site inspection be arranged, involving the Ward Councillors with regard to Cllr J McCarthy's comment pertaining to Subcouncil 3, in order to have their feedback / input on such feasibility study.

**ACTION: A SAULS; J BRAND**

**HOMAC 06/03/20**

**MATTERS RECEIVING ATTENTION**

- 1. PRESENTATION / FEEDBACK ON THE CURRENT SITUATION ON TARIFFS FOR SHELTERS AND TO ADVISE ON THE PROCESS TO WAIVE TARIFFS FOR SHELTERS (HOMAC 07/03/20)**

**RESOLVED** that the matter on the presentation / feedback on the current situation on tariffs for shelters and to advise on the process to waive tariffs for shelters be removed from the Matters Receiving Attention.

**ACTION: J COOPER**

- 2. PRESENTATION / FEEDBACK ON THE STATUS OF LEASES FOR SHELTERS WITHIN THE CITY (HOMAC 08/03/20)**

**RESOLVED** that the matter on the presentation / feedback on the Status of Leases for shelters within the City be removed from the Matters Receiving Attention.

**ACTION: J COOPER**

- 3. PRESENTATION / FEEDBACK ON THE PROCESSES FOR PAUPER BURIALS (HOMAC 09/03/20)**

**RESOLVED** that the matter on the presentation / feedback on the processes for Pauper Burials be removed from the Matters Receiving Attention.

**ACTION: J COOPER**

**HOMAC 07/03/20**

**PRESENTATION / FEEDBACK ON THE CURRENT SITUATION ON TARIFFS FOR SHELTERS AND TO ADVISE ON THE PROCESS TO WAIVE TARIFFS FOR SHELTERS**

T Blake and R Wootton presented on the following:

- New Categories;
- Organisation – Not for Profit;
- New categories - properties owned by non-profit companies and used for accommodation for the vulnerable;
- 2020/21 Proposed New Rating Categories.

H Kahn enquired whether the children's homes, registered in the children's Act, includes orphanages.

Cllr Manata enquired under which category Early Childhood



Development Centres (ECD's) will be accommodated.

R Wootton responded the following, that:

- that orphanages falls within a different category and that they will already be granted rates relief from the City;
- there is a specific category for ECD's but if the ECD is privately owned, then the normal residential rebate will apply;
- media releases and statements will be released in order to get the message out.

C Martinus requested that the presentation be conducted to all organisations.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the presentation / feedback on the current situation on Tariffs for Shelters and to advise on the process to waive Tariffs for shelters be noted;
- (b) the presentation be forwarded to the Committee members;
- (c) the presentation / feedback on the current situation on Tariffs for Shelters be conducted to all organisations.

**ACTION: T BLAKE; R WOOTTON**

**HOMAC 08/03/20**

**PRESENTATION / FEEDBACK ON THE STATUS OF LEASES FOR SHELTERS WITHIN THE CITY**

C Davis reported on the following regarding the renewal of leases for Shelters within the City:

- the seven night shelters which were identified is in Wynberg, Claremont, District Six, Kensington, Bellville, Green Point and Kraaifontein;
- most of the lease agreements are still active and some are expiring at the end of 2020, and two already expired at the end of 2019, which is in the process of being renewed;
- the renewal process is quite a lengthy process because the Department is obliged to follow the contract within the Regulation of the Municipal Assets Transfer Regulations;
- some of the contracts are currently being investigated, which means that surveyors will assess the zoning of the site and will confirm ownership, thereafter a new lease plan will be drafted, which will be circulated internally for comment;
- internal comment will be obtained and the branches will indicate whether they are in agreement with the renewal of the lease agreement;
- the conditions will be listed, which will form part of the lease agreements;
- once all the comments/conditions are received from the various service branches, a letter will be forwarded to the shelters which

- will explain the tariff;
- the shelter management will inform the Department whether they are in agreement with the stipulated conditions as well as the tariff;
- thereafter the proposed renewal of the lease will be advertised which is also part of the Municipal Assets Transfer Regulations;
- members of the public will have a 30-day period to comment towards the proposed lease;
- after the 30-day period, the Property Management Department will prepare a draft report which will serve before the relevant Subcouncil for comment;
- thereafter the Director: Property Management has the final delegation to approve these leases, where after the lease will be concluded.

H Khan stated that one of the key problems which NGO's struggle with, is the period of the lease and it is of the understanding that the lease could be turned into a three-year lease, which makes it impossible for shelters and NGO's to raise funds to improve the property.

C Martinus suggested that a follow-up report or presentation on the status of leases for shelters within the City be submitted to the next meeting. He further requested guidance regarding the process when NGO's seek property to be utilised.

Cllr Clarke enquired as to what the turnaround time of signing a new lease after it has expired is.

C Davids responded the following, that:

- the period of the lease depends on the comments from the internal service branches;
- usually the Property Management Department will grant a ten-year lease, with a renewal period of a similar ten-year period;
- the Property Holding branch is allowed to contract but within the Property Management Department there is a branch called Disposals and Acquisitions which deals with new applications or properties which has to be identified'
- the turnaround time for the signing of a new lease agreement is between twelve and eighteen months because of the lengthy process.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the presentation / feedback on the status of leases for shelters within the City be noted;
- (b) a follow-up report or presentation on the status of leases for shelters within the City be submitted to the next meeting.

**ACTION: C DAVIS**

**PRESENTATION / FEEDBACK ON THE PROCESSES FOR PAUPER BURIALS**

S Brice presented on the following:

- Destitute persons;
- Background to Policy;
- Annual Destitute Statistics;
- Monthly Burial Demand Statistics: Jan 15- Jan 18;
- Conditions/Criteria for Destitute Applications;
- Role-players;
- Application Procedure;
- Challenges.

Cllr Simbeku requested clarity on the hospital documentation process in the event of a destitute person passing away in hospital, as the process takes approximately two weeks to complete.

Cllr Manata enquired / commented on the following:

- whether religion is considered with regard to cremations;
- that inferior material is used for the coffins of the destitute burials;
- that the importance of cultures be considered when the new tenders are awarded.

A Meiring queried as to what the process is if an Identity Document of a deceased destitute cannot be located.

S Brice responded the following, that:

- every destitute burial case is different and that the dignity of the deceased is of utmost importance;
- the Department needs to be realistic about the impact of the cost to the City, therefore the cost of the coffins need to be considered;
- the Department is working closely with the Provincial administration in order to improve the efficiency of the destitute burial process;
- the City cannot cover the storage fees of destitute persons of up to thirty or forty days;
- there has been challenges in collection of bodies in the cases where a General Practitioner has not certified the cause of death, in which case SAPS has to authorise the removal of the body by a service provider.

N Adams added the following, that:

- the Destitute Burial Policy does make provision for the different cultures;
- with the new requirements in place, the coffins used for destitute burials will be eco-friendly.

The Chairperson added that any additional requests for information

should be directed to S Brice and N Adams.

**RESOLVED** that the presentation / feedback on the processes for pauper burials be noted.

**ACTION: S BRICE; N ADAMS**

**HOMAC 10/03/20**

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT STREET PEOPLE PROGRAM MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT - JANUARY 2020**

N du Toit reported that the public participation process for Oasis is nearing conclusion, thereafter the site visits to Oasis and Streets Cape in Kuils River will be conducted. She further stated that three Grants-in-Aids were approved by Council.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the Social Development and Early Childhood Development Street People Program monthly activity report – January 2020 be noted;
- (b) the site visits to Oasis and Streets Cape in Kuils River be conducted after the conclusion of the public participation process at Oasis.

**ACTION: N DU TOIT**

Meeting concluded at 12h30

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**CLLR N MAHANGU**

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**DATE**