

The Speaker
City of Johannesburg
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Attention: **Mr Yusuf Lachporia:** yusufl@joburg.org.za

Dear Madam Speaker

**CITY OF JOHANNESBURG:
DRAFT 2023-2024 INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW: SUBMISSION
BY THE JOHANNESBURG CID FORUM, A CHAPTER OF THE GAUTENG
PRECINCT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (NPC)**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the City of Johannesburg Draft IDP 2023-2024 (Draft IDP). Please find below a summary of the issues and ideas for your consideration in the finalisation of the IDP. The Johannesburg CID Forum (CIDF), a Chapter of the Gauteng Precinct Management Association (NPC) (GPMA), trusts that this submission will be of value and will contribute to the long-term sustainable and transformational development and management of Johannesburg.

At the outset, the CIDF notes the following:

- The City needs to deliver a stronger response regarding the current state of the city and its services. Opportunities for property investment and development are being threatened and even lost with the uncertainty, poor availability and even non-existent management and maintenance of the basic infrastructure and services of the city.
- The City gives strategic recognition to the importance of the energy mix. However, of greater importance and need is the strategic priority to ensure long-term and sustainable supply of water.
- The City has to become a stronger partner in collaboration with the private sector and communities to ensure a quick and effective response to the

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Directors: Anne Steffny* | David van Niekerk | Katherine Cox | Laetitia Cook | Mikhaela Donaldson | Scott Thorburn
| Yael Horowitz | Stephen du Preez**

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declining economic and social situation that is impacting all sectors of the business and communities. Partnerships and collaboration are essential for mutual benefits and improved quality of life for communities in terms of economic development, addressing social needs and environmental sustainability.

1. Special Rating Area (SRA)

- 1.1. The urgent finalisation and implementation of the Special Rating Area (SRA) policy and bylaw are of critical importance. This is to establish formal, sustainable working and collaborative relationships between the City and current Voluntary Management Initiatives (VMI) and many other communities and precincts wishing to support the City in the provision of economic development, social cohesion, environmental interventions, attract and retain business and to support and supplement basic service delivery.
- 1.2. Legislated partnerships with communities and property owners, such as SRAs, will assist the City with the co-management of many urban management projects such as parks, open space, informal trading, waste management and recycling programs, urban agriculture and providing support services for addressing many social needs and requirements to the benefit of stakeholders and communities in the city.
- 1.3. SRAs and VMIs have extensive resources and knowledge of their areas and therefore can provide vital local area, information, research and data to assist with identifying, budgeting and delivery of capital and operational projects.

2. Partnerships and collaboration

- 2.1. The private sector and community structures involved in legislated (SRAs) and structured partnerships (VMIs) include a wide range of stakeholders. These structures are keen to partner and collaborate with the City as they are well governed, organised and resourced with a strong desire to enable investment, economic development and social cohesion in a positive and proactive approach to counter the economic, social and environmental impacts and trends, particularly of the current economic decline.
- 2.2. The City's intention to reintroduce co-production is an ideal opportunity for SRAs and VMIs to be engaged meaningfully to assist with co-managing and

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promoting local economic growth and development for all sectors of the community.

- 2.3. The City is looking for “enhanced community engagement”, “Active Citizenry” and sustainable collaboration with the private sector. SRAs and VMIs are perfect vehicles to be used by the City for such purposes.
- 2.4. VMIs currently provide various Area-Based Management projects and initiatives such as the Johannesburg Inner City Partnership, Village East Precinct Partnership, Makers Valley Partnership, Ekhaya Park, Hillbrow Partnership, Adopt-a Spot and Jozi Trails. The City should formally recognise these projects and initiatives and engage positively and sustainably. These can be regularised and replicated through user-friendly policies and processes to improve urban public space areas and deliver facilities and services to local communities and businesses.
- 2.5. The re-establishment of the Joburg Business Forum and its subcommittees is strongly supported and the CID Forum looks forward to meaningful participation and engagement with the City and other stakeholders.
- 2.6. This will be an ideal platform to identify and address strategic and operational needs, requirements and agreed implementation plans and budgets, in preparation for future IDPs and budgets.

3. Economic and Social Development

- 3.1. VMIs/SRAs are actively promoting local economic, social and environmental investment and development in their respective areas and nodes either individually or collectively.
- 3.2. The City is requested to recognise the promotion of these areas for economic investment and development through appropriate policies, strategies and budget proposals for projects and initiatives to be undertaken in collaboration with the private sector to provide employment, address social problems and issues and improve the environment wherein people live work and play.
- 3.3. The formal and informal economic nodes should not be Ward-based structures but give recognition to geospatial clusters of economic activities.
- 3.4. The full implementation of the Informal Trading policy and bylaw are of critical importance.

4. Property Rates Policy

- 4.1. The City is strongly requested to consider investing in some form of rates incentive and tariff support for existing and new property investors and owners who are active and participate in the VMIs/SRAs to assist the City with creating an enabling environment for further investment and development.
- 4.2. Such additional investment and development will improve land values and further increase the rates base for the City.
- 4.3. Property investors and owners contribute additional funding and resources to support local communities and address developmental and social needs and facilities particularly relating to supporting the needy and homeless, unemployed and hungry members of their communities.

The Johannesburg CID Forum, a Chapter of the Gauteng Precinct Management Association, trusts that the above contribution will be of value to the City in the finalisation of the 2023-2024 Integrated Development Plan and budget. We do however reserve our rights with regard to further contributions to and participation in this IDP and budget preparation process.

Please contact us should you require any further information or clarification regarding any of the suggestions and proposals made in this submission.

Yours sincerely
Anne Steffny



Director: Gauteng Precinct Management Association
Facilitator: Joburg CID Forum