

FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

(Incorporating Fish Hoek, Clovelly and Sun Valley)

P.O. Box 22125, Fish Hoek 7974
Web: www.fishhoekratepayers.com

TO: FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS
fraud.hotline@capetown.gov.za

SUBJECT: REQUEST INVESTIGATION INTO PERPETRATORS OF ODTP

1. DISCUSSION

We, the Fish Hoek Valley Ratepayers and Residents Association, feel that the City's rates base is too high and is actually contributing to inflationary costs. When administrative charges rise rapidly, they leave little remaining disposal income for purchases of South African goods that would actually stimulate the economy. The rise in administrative charges include the annual tariff and rates increase above inflation, new charges such as (water) fixed basic charge and (electricity) home user charge with the latter not being usage based and thus illegal in terms of:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: MUNICIPAL SYSTEMS ACT #32 OF 2000

Service tariffs: Section 74 Tariff policy -

(2) A tariff policy must reflect at least the following principles, namely that-

(b) the amount individual users pay for services should generally be **in proportion to their use** of that service;

However, the elephant in the room of high rates is the staff bloat caused directly by the Organisational Development and Transformation Plan (ODTP) with Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) adopted by Council on 24 August 2016 resulting in an unmitigated disaster regarding service delivery, which dropped steadily over this period from implementation to date. Due to the structure's lack of accountability, the art of ducking and diving responsibilities was raised to new heights. With implementation during the first of 2017, we aren't even two years down the road and the City now wants to restructure again. Restructuring always has costs. The 68 employee crafters of the ODTP aren't to be trusted with another restructuring. So, external consultants will no doubt be engaged at great cost. The interim, transitional state will cost with a further drop in service delivery and the City will want all ratepayers and tariff users to pay. OD consultants will tell centralised organisations to de-centralise (area-based service delivery directorate) and vice versa. So, the City just needs to revert to the structure before the Transport and Urban Development Authority without the need for consultants. The optimal size was exceeded many years ago. For service delivery efficiencies, the City's organogram for officials does not have to fit into a political structure.

Having the mayor and councillors on an appeal committee and enshrined in a by-law is probably bordering on the criminal. The Municipal Planning By-Law, as amended to 2017, should be rewritten to exclude politicians so that officials can do their proper job. Recently, City planners have just become administrators as they seem to be measured on the number of plans passed and not actually doing any planning along urban design principles as done previously. The Municipal Planning Tribunal has become a complete joke with the over-riding of "all" objections to departures for the sake of development at all costs. We have no objections to development, but they must comply with the City's own guidelines.

2. QUESTIONS

To our point, what we want investigated properly by an internal section with the requisite authority, the City's Forensic Services, is the following:

- What prior experience did the 68 ODTP crafters, including Zukiswa Mandlana, Director: Organisational Effectiveness and Innovation in the Directorate of the Mayor and Lance Greyling, Director of Enterprise and Investment, have in the then proposed structure?
- Did any of them benefit (including associated research papers or in partial credit towards a degree, any remuneration)?
- What was the cost for the "extensive five-year ODTP research" prior to implementation?
- Will the 68 ODTP crafters be excluded from future restructuring plans?
- What was the link between the 68 ODTP crafters and the political structure, now partially collapsed (Executive Mayor Patricia de Lille, Deputy Mayor Ian Neilson, Cllr Brett Herron, Mayoral Committee Member for Transport and Urban Development); OD, Transport and Urban Development Authority (TDA))?
- Couldn't this ODTP exercise be considered fruitless and wasteful expenditure?
- **Will there be disciplinary proceedings against the perpetrators of this ODTP disaster?**
- What will be the cost of this restructuring exercise?

Were any of the stated goals achieved, such as the following:

- Reversing the legacy of apartheid spatial planning / helping the poor (measurements)? With more than 67% of the City's budget spent in the poorer areas previously, even the National Treasury noted that the City was 'overly generous' in its provision of free basic services.^{1 2}
- Modernising government – future-proof (whatever this means)?
- Improving service delivery (we argue against this one)?
- Becoming more customer-centric (and we argue against this one)?

¹ <https://crra.co.za/city-of-cape-town-new-odtp/>

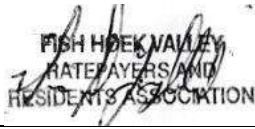
² <https://www.iol.co.za/capetimes/exciting-new-plans-to-transform-city-2096896>

Regarding the restructuring intended now:

- Will right-sizing the staff-complement be given serious attention and in proportion to the rates base it is supposed to serve?

Pertaining to the City's Municipal Planning By-Law:

- Will it be re-written to exclude the political influence?

NAME & SURNAME	<i>Brian Youngblood, Chair: Fish Hoek Valley Residents and Ratepayers Association (FHVRRRA)</i>
CONTACT NUMBERS	Cell: 084 3 99 99 33
E-MAIL ADDRESS	bdyoungblood@gmail.co.za
SIGNATURE	
DATE	23 December 2018

Additional references:

<http://acceleratecapetown.co.za/cape-town/>

<http://www.politicsweb.co.za/politics/ct-to-be-declared-a-restructuring-zone--city-of-ca>