



a world class African city

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**MEDIA RELEASE
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City of Johannesburg Announce Arrest in Connection with Hijacked Property

The City of Johannesburg officials have confirmed the arrest of a suspect in connection with a property that has been illegally occupied and modified to house numerous individuals. This development follows the multi-disciplinary operation led by the City Manager, Dr Floyd Brink, at a property in Grosvenor Road, Bryanston.

During an inspection last December, city officials uncovered multiple unlawful structures on the property, including makeshift rooms that had been constructed to accommodate residents. The investigation team has since gathered three positive statements from witnesses linking the suspect to the illicit collection of rents on the premises.

In addition to the arrest, it was confirmed that the suspect had a firearm in his possession, including two magazines and ammunition, all of which were confirmed to be licenced. The case, now under police jurisdiction, is expected to proceed as officials await further information regarding formal charges.

City Manager, Dr Brink, expressed concern over the high level of lawlessness surrounding this and similar properties. "There is a critical need to address these issues for the sake of our community's safety and the City's financial sustainability. "We are actively investigating 17 additional properties across wards 102 and 104 that have been identified for similar illegal occupation."

On arriving at the site, officials discovered that both electricity and water services were illegally connected. The previous owner had taken measures to disconnect these utilities years ago, but the services were unlawfully reinstated. The City, recognising the financial burden that such illegal connections impose on law-abiding residents, is committed to implementing a zero-tolerance approach towards such activities.

"This property is valued at approximately 5.1 million, and the outstanding service amounts are significant," the City Manager added. "Moving forward, we will be intensifying our crackdown on illegal activities, including unlawful connections to utilities. We will continue to exercise zero tolerance on all forms of illegality within the City."

The city is taking immediate action to secure the area, with plans to work closely with the Social Development and Human Settlements teams to assist individuals currently living in the property. These efforts are essential to ensure that the proper legal and social processes are followed.

"In the coming weeks, residents can expect to see more operations addressing illegal occupations and electrical connections across our city," concluded the City Manager.

The City of Johannesburg urges residents to report any suspicious activities related to property hijacking or illegal utility connections to the authorities.

ENDS

Issued by the City of Joburg

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