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## Media Statement

### For Immediate Release

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## City Intensifies Operation Against Problem Properties in Revenue Enhancement Drive

The City today intensified its multi-departmental operation aimed at addressing problem properties and enforcing compliance as part of its ongoing revenue enhancement drive. The coordinated operation commenced this morning at **26 High Street, Bramley**, and later proceeded to **54 Grenville Avenue, next to Weinberg**.

The operation brought together several City entities, including the **Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD)**, **Group Forensic and Investigation Services (GFIS)**, **Corporate Revenue Management Unit (CRUM)**, the **Development Planning Department**, **City Power**, and **Joburg Water**.

At 26 High Street, the property owner was confirmed to have full control of the premises. However, several serious contraventions were identified during the inspection.

Recyclers occupying the property had erected makeshift structures constructed from cardboard boxes and plastic sheeting. The property had effectively been converted into a sorting site for recyclable materials, raising concerns relating to health, safety, zoning compliance, and by-law adherence.

Although the property had active water and electricity connections, investigations revealed that no payments were being made to the City for these municipal services.

As a result:

- **City Power** disconnected the electricity supply due to non-payment.
- **Joburg Water** disconnected and removed the water meter to prevent further unauthorised usage.

The City emphasised that failure to pay for municipal services places an unfair burden on compliant residents and undermines service delivery across communities

The operation then proceeded to 54 Grenville Avenue, where the property owner was present during the inspection.

Officials discovered that the water meter had been illegally bypassed. In addition, structures had been erected without approved building plans, in direct contravention of national building regulations and building standards.

In response:

- **Joburg Water** implemented a **Level Three cut-off**, which involves the complete removal of the water meter and associated connections. Water services will only be restored once the outstanding amount is settled and full compliance is achieved.
- The **Development Planning Department** issued a formal contravention notice for violations of the National Building Regulations and Building Standards Act.

### **Commitment to Enforcement and Compliance**

The City reiterated that the operation forms part of a broader strategy to improve revenue collection, ensure compliance with municipal by-laws, and restore accountability among property owners who fail to meet their obligations.

By targeting properties with illegal connections, unpaid municipal accounts, unauthorised structures and non-compliant land use, the City aims to:

- Protect public health and safety
- Ensure fair and equitable service delivery
- Safeguard infrastructure
- Strengthen financial sustainability

The City will continue conducting similar operations across various regions, and property owners are urged to settle outstanding accounts, regularise building plans, and comply fully with municipal regulations to avoid enforcement action.

Ends

Issued by the City of Johannesburg

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