

Dear Nthatsi,

Thank you for your response, but having lived with this problem for years with little to no intervention from the City, please excuse our scepticism. I would like to formally respond to each of your points:

1. Not all occupants residing in the city owned houses are illegal occupants, as they have entered into lease agreements with the city. The Lessees with valid lease agreements will continue to occupy the leased houses, in terms of the lease agreements.

This is not in dispute, but we believe that the occupants of the 26 City-owned properties that are detailed in the attached PDF are illegally occupied. If you do not believe this to be the case, for each of the 26 properties please assert whether a valid lease agreement exists with those occupying the house. We reserve our rights to request copies of the leases in terms of PAIA.

2. The notion that the City is doing nothing in this regards is false and has no basis. The Johannesburg Property Company (JPC) opened a docket with the South African Police Service in Norwood for Hijacking of the houses and Trespass and an investigations is underway.

We do not believe that the City has done this for all properties illegally occupied. Kindly furnish us with details of all properties that have been served an eviction order.

3. The illegal occupants, occupying the houses were served with notices to vacate the properties already. They have ignored the notices. The City is in the process of applying for eviction orders so that the occupants may be evicted from the houses, pursuant to the Prevention of Illegal Eviction From and Unlawful occupation of Land Act 19 of 1998.

As above, we do not believe that the City has done this for all properties illegally occupied. Kindly furnish us with details of all properties that have been served an eviction order. For your interest we attach the one eviction order that we know of. It contradicts itself (alternatively referring to Erf 37 and Erf 14) and therefore cannot be acted on. And we believe that NO action has been taken on this property.

4. The finalisation of the rezoning, consolidation and tender process should be finalised within 8 months. The development of the properties will commence soon after that.

There is no way that this process will be successful as buyers will not purchase properties that are illegally occupied. We, as residents, will continue to live with the consequences.

All illegal connections for municipal services must be reported to either City Power or Joburg Water so that the relevant action may be taken against the perpetrators.

The City is passing the buck here. Residents DO report illegal connections, with very little action. But the City has a duty of care for its own assets. If the City owns a property,

it should be regularly inspected to ensure that there are no illegal occupiers and no illegal connections. Please furnish us with details on the City's programme in this regard.

I would also like to know how the City intends dealing with CEO Helen Botes's statement, which has contradicted the information you have provided?

You can be assured that we will not relent until the City takes responsibility for the mess it has created.

Regards,

Brett McDougall

Chairman, Norwood Orchards Residents Association

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nthatsi Modingoane** <Nthatisem@joburg.org.za>

Date: Thu, 31 Jan 2019 at 10:24

Subject: RE: Hijackings Orange Grove

To: Anna Cox <anna.cox@inl.co.za>, Eleanor Huggett <eleanorhuggett@gmail.com>



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Turning the Inner City into a construction site.



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Dear Anna

Apology for the delay. Please see the response below:

1. Not all occupants residing in the city owned houses are illegal occupants, as they have entered into lease agreements with the city. The Lessees with valid lease agreements will continue to occupy the leased houses, in terms of the lease agreements.

2. The notion that the City is doing nothing in this regards is false and has no basis. The Johannesburg Property Company (JPC) opened a docket with the South African Police Service in Norwood for Hijacking of the houses and Trespass and an investigations is underway.

3. The illegal occupants, occupying the houses were served with notices to vacate the properties already. They have ignored the notices. The City is in the process of applying for eviction orders so that the occupants may be evicted from the houses, pursuant to the Prevention of Illegal Eviction From and Unlawful occupation of Land Act 19 of 1998.

4. The finalisation of the rezoning, consolidation and tender process should be finalised within 8 months. The development of the properties will commence soon after that.

This is in line with the Inner City property release programme we are currently implementing and a report to this effect has been prepared for Council for these particular properties.

All illegal connections for municipal services must be reported to either City Power or Joburg Water so that the relevant action may be taken against the perpetrators.

Through Operation Buya Mthetho, an initiative aimed at enforcing by-laws and bringing the rule of law in the City, more than R160 million has been collected from some of the more than 200 businesses whose accounts were not the system. The City is confident that all the interventions put in place to deal with this matter will yield long term solution.

Ends

Regards

Nthatsi Modingoane