



Trishana Naidu <naidutrishana@gmail.com>

FW: Vacant Houses at Corner of Helen Joseph and Cato Roads

Dr Sagaren Naidu <sags@intekom.co.za>

11 August 2022 at 10:58

To: Trishana Naidu <naidutrishana@gmail.com>, Mohammad Haq <Bilal.Haq@durban.gov.za>, Miranda Khanyile <Sidudu.Khanyile@durban.gov.za>, mahesh@mbhana.co.za, pregchetty@gmail.com, Ros Devereux <ros.devereux@amafainstitute.org.za>

From: pierrem@planetpastel.com <20012374@planetpastel.com>
Sent: Thursday, 11 August 2022 10:32
To: Dr Sagaren Naidu <sags@intekom.co.za>
Subject: Fwd: Vacant Houses at Corner of Helen Joseph and Cato Roads

From: "Pierre Maree" <Pierre.Maree@durban.gov.za>
To: "pierrem@planetpastel.com" <20012374@planetpastel.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2022 10:12:11 AM
Subject: Vacant Houses at Corner of Helen Joseph and Cato Roads

11 August 2022

This is directed to Anybody who can do something about the situation at [301 & 303 Helen Joseph Road](#).

I want to put on record that the situation at the two properties located at the corner of Helen Joseph and Cato Roads in Glenwood to be utterly unacceptable.

All efforts at securing these properties have failed as pedestrian doors, garage doors, security gates, chains, locks etc. are stolen as soon as they are put in place. As a result, there is free access to the properties and the two houses are continuously stripped, with vagrants spending nights at the property and using it for ablutions despite there being no working toilets. Both houses are irreversibly damaged, and are clearly beyond any chance of restoration – there is zero heritage value remaining in either of these houses

Fire Hazard

Vagrants are making fires on the property using the seemingly endless supply of wood on the properties. It is only a matter of time before fire spreads to the neighbouring house at [299 Helen Joseph Road](#), with the **obvious threat of loss of life**. This is not an exaggeration – there has already been a serious fire at the corner house outbuildings, which if not attended to would have spread to neighbouring buildings. This is just reckless.

Safety of People and Property at Continual Risk from Intruders

Intruders are using the properties to gain unobserved access to both the house at [299 Helen Joseph Road](#), and to the block of flats alongside.

Once again, the safety of the residence and the burglars are put at risk. It is no secret that in South Africa many burglaries end up with violence, and residents may well use potentially lethal force in defending their families and property. Again, this is no exaggeration. Without a burglary in 14 years at [299 Helen Joseph Road](#), we have now been burgled with access gained from the vacant properties, over a recently installed electric fence. **The financial and psychological damage of this trauma is substantial**. Access was also gained via these properties into the flats alongside where a number of cars were broken into and items stolen.

It is only a matter of time before the occurrence of a more serious incident.

Hygiene & Risk for Disease

There is a foul odour emanating from the houses, no doubt the faeces lying around, and the rat population has exploded. I can only imagine what increased risk for disease there must be. And the smell of faeces with your supper is just not acceptable.

Lost Revenue

Owing to the disgusting state of these houses, and to the risk of being burgled and attacked, I have been unable to rent out the vacant flat at [299 Helen Joseph Road](#). I am losing R7000 every month owing to this debacle.

Solution

Demolish the houses and secure the properties. If access is difficult and there is nothing more to steal, these activities will stop. Residents of the flats will be able to clearly see any intruders in the open land, and warn each other.

Leaving these properties to vagrants and thieves, is recklessly endangering neighbours and passers-by. This cannot wait, lives and belongings are at risk!

8/14/22, 6:02 PM

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Incidentally, I now spend every possible moment at home to protect my wife and belongings. It is a nightmare. I am having to do armed patrols in my own garden, cannot sleep properly, have had to return early from my holiday, and cancel all further travel pending resolution. I also am not able to go to work on days when my wife will be at home – I cannot have her at home alone given this mess.

I cannot believe that after months, this this situation is still not resolved. It is disgusting, and any one delaying resolution needs to understand that this amounts to reckless endangerment.

I trust that the reader has some empathy, and attends this asap. This cannot go on any longer. I need sleep!

Regards

Pierre Maree



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