



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 9TH SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG MUNICIPALITY IN HONOUR OF THE LATE COUNCILLOR M C WILLIAMS HELD AT THE CONSTANCE CONNIE BAPELA COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRAAMFONTEIN, ON MONDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 09:00.

**SPEAKER OF COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR M ARNOLDS**

- 1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**
- 2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**
- 3 MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR**
- 4 MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE BY THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (DA)**
- 5 MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE BY OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES**
- 6 COMMENTS BY FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE**
- 7 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CLOSURE**

MEMBERS PRESENT

The Speaker: Councillor M Arnolds

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Abdool, F | Horwitz, J |
| Amad, T | Huggett, E A |
| Aphane, J D | Jacobs, B |
| Atterbury, E | Jacobs, K |
| Avant-Smith, C | Jacobs, LC |
| Baloyi, D L | Jonker, N |
| Benjamin, R F | Kaldine, J |
| Bittkau, R | Karolia, Y |
| Bodenstein, H | Kgeletsane, M O |
| Boer, C | Khanyile, N M |
| Bolani, M G | Khomongoe, N |
| Brand, D G | Khumalo, X I |
| Campbell-Cloete, B | Koekemoer, M |
| Chabalala, M D | Komane, S A |
| Chame, F | Kreusch, S |
| Chauke, K L | Kwapeng, C |
| Cherry, J | Landis, R |
| Chetsanga, H | Lebatlang, T Z |
| Christians, A | Lebea, M G |
| Chuma, A T | Lefutso, L |
| Coogan, L C | Leshilo, R S |
| Cook, M | Liebenberg, E |
| Coutriers, M J | Maaake, M J |
| Coverdale, D L T | Mabelebele, S S |
| Da Gama, V M | Mabidilala, M P |
| Da rocha, C M D | Mabuke, T A |
| De Lange, F C | Madiba, T J |
| Deppe, A J | Magwaza, B L P |
| Dewes, D S | Magwentshu, L C |
| Dladla, D | Maila, S M |
| Dlamini, B | Makamo, S S |
| Echeozonjoku, B C | Makaula, S |
| Edward, N | Makhafola, E |
| Finn, C E | Makhuba, H N |
| Foley, D T | Maluleka, T |
| Fourie-Shawe, C | Manganyi, D B |
| Galeshewe, T M | Mangena, T D |
| Goosen, J W | Marais, A F |
| Harman, L J (DA) | Marais, S I |
| Harris, R | Marema, V A |
| Hlatshwayo, S | Marumo, T |
| Hlatshwayo, S M | Masera, H |
| Hoén, J N | Mashala, K |
| Hooper, R S | Mashinini, S |

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Masoga, L M | Nair, R K |
| Masuku, H P | Ncube, W M |
| Mathe, G | Ndlela, M C |
| May, Z | Ndou, P |
| Mavhona, L S | Ndou, P |
| Mazibuko, A L | Ndzondo, C M |
| Mazibuko, N | Nenemba, T |
| Mbambala, T J | Nethamba, R |
| Meyers, T | Ngema, S V |
| Mgaga, B | Ngoepe, C S |
| Mgcina, S E | Ngwenya, F N |
| Mhlari, T M | Ngwetsheni, M M |
| Mkhize, T | Nhlapo, C P |
| Mkhonto, M S | Niemand, G J |
| Mkhonza, N F | Nkokou, T P |
| Mmota, L | Nkomo, B |
| Mngadi, W B | Nkomo, E T |
| Mnisi, M | Nkonyeni, S P |
| Mnisi, N D | Nkubungu, L |
| Mnyameni, M | Nkwanyana, P B |
| Modladlaba, D S | Ntlemeza, B |
| Modukanene, L C | Ntoele, N L |
| Modupi, D N | Ntombela, M J |
| Moepi, N J D | Nyaqela, M M |
| Moeti, O T | Nyembe, M M |
| Mofokeng, J | Nyembe, Z P |
| Mogapi, T A | Nzimande, C |
| Mohamed, N | Papo, M M |
| Mohlala, P K | Pelzer, R |
| Mokoari, Z | Phometsi, P S |
| Mokoena, G | Pietersen, J |
| Mokoena, P | Pietersen, N |
| Mokome, J M | Pitso, K |
| Mokwena, T M | Radebe, N P |
| Molala, S M | Radebe, T T |
| Molefe, M | Rahn, N J |
| Molefe, S B | Raholane, M W |
| Molise, L D | Rakosa, P M |
| Moshapo, L C | Ramafikeng, D J |
| Mothopi, O Z | Ramaru, G |
| Mphaho, M A | Rambani, N S |
| Mphefo, L M P | Raseruthe, S H |
| Mposula, T | Reddy, V M |
| Mpotulo, G S | Rohlssen, C K |
| Mulelu, M | Santana, C G |
| Munyayi, V E | Schay, D |
| Mutavhatsindi, N T | Seerane, M K |
| Mzolo, N | Sehoai, R J |

Sekhu, M V
Shackleford, L M
Shange, P A
Shawe, Z
Sherman, G J
Sifumba, N
Simelane, P
Simonse, L C
Sindani, F P
Smit, P A
Smouse, B M
Sondag, J M
Steenkamp, D
Suddaby, J
Supe, N P
Tabane, M C

Tambani, P S
Tsheddo, J G
Tshehlo, G J
Tsotetsi, L Y M
Twala, Y A
Van der Merwe, M
Wax, K P
Wilskut, D
Wissler, S T J
Xulu, P S
Zazini, A
Zigebe, Y L
Zitha, S L
Zondo, L T
Zungu, N G
Zwane, S

1 OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker welcomed all present at the meeting and requested everyone to observe a moment of silence for prayer or meditation. She then asked everyone to take their seats and addressed the Council as follows:

“Good morning, to the Executive Mayor, Councillor S Morero: Whip of Council, Councillor K Chauke; Chair of Chairs, Councillor A Marema; fellow Councillors; officials of the city, Members of the Mayoral Committee. Let me acknowledge the presence of the former Mayor of Cape Town and Premier of the Western Cape, Ms. Helen Zille. The leader of the official opposition at the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, Mr Solly Msimanga. Ladies and gentlemen, and the Williams Family in absentia. We gather here in this Special Council Meeting not merely to mourn, but to fulfil an institutional protocol, and honour a life that was lived with deep purpose and unrelenting courage. The life of Councillor Martin Williams, born in 1952 on the 12th of November. He was born in Port St John, in the Eastern Cape and educated at Alexandra High School in Pietermaritzburg, and then University of Natal.

The City of Johannesburg Council regards with high esteem the wishes of the Williams Family that they be given privacy as they continue to deal with grief. It is for this reason that they are not here with us this morning.

“Love lives on forever in each memory and thought of a special one who meant so much and the happiness he brought. Love lives forever, it will never far away, for in our hearts, our loved ones are with us every day.”

Prior to being elected as a Councillor; he worked as a reporter at Natal Witness until he became the Managing Editor between 1992 and 1994. Later he became Editor of The Citizen and retired in 2013.

Councillor Williams was a man of thoughts - thoughts he would articulate profoundly as a journalist. Every time he spoke on an item on the Council Agenda, it was evident that he had done his research, had supporting evidence to back up his argument. He would present his ideas and arguments in such a remarkable chronological order, like all good Journalists. He was deeply curious, questioned widely accepted ‘truths.

Today, we reflect not only on what we have lost, but on what we have gained from his life. Councillor Williams has left us a legacy of purpose, perseverance, and pride. His memory is our responsibility, and we must ensure that the light he lit in so many hearts does not fade but burns even brighter.

“The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honourable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.”
Ralf Waldo Emerson

Martin Williams completed 23 Comrades Marathons between 1982 and 2012, earned two silver, 17 bronze and 4 Vic Clapham medals. He also ran multiple Two Oceans and in 2012, he completed the Boston Marathon under 4 hours.

Let us carry that same spirit forward - in honour of Councillor Martin Williams.”

2 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The following applications for leave of absence from this meeting were granted:

*Councillor Crichton, M
Councillor Hughes, Z
Councillor Masuku, L
Councillor Morero, S E
Councillor Roberts, F C
Councillor Stewart, A J
Councillor Louw, M A*

The following Councillors were granted permission to arrive late.

*Councillor Dewes D S
Councillor Harris R
Councillor Khanyile N M
Councillor Mabaso M P
Councillor Makhuba H N
Councillor Manganyi D B
Councillor Mkhize T
Councillor Mnisi N
Councillor Nkomo*

3 MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE BY THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

Councillor V Marema (ANC), on behalf of the Executive Mayor addressed Council as follows:

“Greetings Speaker of the City of Johannesburg; the Executive Mayor and his collective in their absentia; whips of different caucuses; Whip of Council, Councillor K Chauke; the leadership and the caucus of the DA, I greet you all.

Today, I stand with a heavy heart as we reflect on the profound loss that has cast a shadow over our Council. The passing of Councillor Martin Williams is a devastating blow. The pain that envelopes our Council is palpable as we grapple with the sorrow and grief that follow such a significant loss. This moment is not just a tragedy for our Council, but a personal loss for the family and friends who cherish this remarkable individual.

As you all know that this Council, this year, has lost several Councillors and Councillor Martin Williams being one of those. Ever since I have been a Councillor since 2016, there has never been a year that we lose so many Councillors in a year, and I can understand the pain and the feeling as different caucuses loses their Councillors. I remember one of our Councillors in my caucus was asking if we had ever thought of Councillors going into counselling sessions. And sometimes it may be taken lightly, but the loss that we are experiencing in this Council requires that we introspect and investigate the reasons why we are losing so many Councillors.

As we endure this collective heartache, it is crucial to acknowledge the emotional toll it has taken on all of us. The experience of loss and mourning is uniquely challenging, and each of us feels the weight of this tragedy in different ways. We may seek understanding or reasons behind such events, yet we must recognize that some answers are beyond our reach. In our deepest sorrow, we find solace in the belief that God knows the path forward, even when we cannot comprehend it.

True, indeed, as Councillors in this Council, we offer our experience in different ways. Councillor Martin Williams is one of those Councillors who used to sit there at his seat; he would not shout like I do. He would not call the point of orders like I do. He would not raise his hand as often as I do, but he was one of those Councillors who, when he speaks, you find a voice of reasoning. As we commemorate Councillor Martin Williams' contribution and legacy, we extend our heartfelt condolences to those who are mourning alongside us. We hope for strength and resilience as we navigate this difficult journey together. Rest in peace. My dear Councillor Martin. Until our path crosses again, may you find peace in a place free from pain. Thank you."

4 MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE BY THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE (DA)

Councillor B Echeozonjoku (DA) addressed Council as follows:

"Madam Speaker; Executive Mayor; fellow Councillors; esteemed guests; our Federal Council Chair and Mayoral Candidate, Helen Zille; the Williams family and residents of Johannesburg, Good Morning.

Today, we honour the life and service of Councillor Martin Williams. His passing leaves a deep void in this Chamber, in his community, and in the City, he served with such distinction.

Councillor Williams' life tells one continuous story of public service. For decades as a journalist, and then for ten years as Ward Councillor of Ward 90. He gave his voice, his pen, and his energy to the people of Johannesburg. He never separated those roles, whether in print or in this Chamber, his mission was always the same: to speak truth, to challenge the status quo, and to do so with respect, with dignity, and with the goal of better service for residents.

Many of us remember his weekly column in The Citizen, a space where he wrote with brutal honesty and fearless clarity. Councillor Williams had the courage to tell leaders what they did not want to hear, but always in a way that was constructive, thoughtful, and driven by care for ordinary people. When he entered this Council, he brought that same integrity into public office. He was meticulous, committed, and steady in his service. And he never stopped challenging us, asking hard questions, offering sharp insights, and reminding us, in his calm way, that we are here for the residents, not for ourselves.

I recall his playful reminders whenever I tried to follow up on electricity outages in his Ward. He would message me saying, "Belinda, stop interfering, I've already logged it."

Behind the humour was the truth: Martin never left his community unattended. He was always ahead, always present, always dedicated. And when the Mayor visited his Ward and officials told him that the Mayor speaks for everyone, he messaged to say, 'I will not be silenced', and of course they let him speak. That was Martin.

To the Williams family, we thank you for sharing him with Johannesburg. We know his service demanded much of your time and sacrifice, and we honour not just his contribution, but yours as well.

Colleagues, as we pay tribute today, let us also resolve to honour his memory properly. The policy on conferring the title of Alderman must come before this Council. So that men and women like Councillor Williams and Councillor Dammie, who dedicate their lives to the service of residents, are remembered in a way that is fitting and permanent.

Councillor Martin Williams showed us that service is not about grandstanding, but about consistency, honesty, and care. He reminded us that we can challenge the status quo with respect, and that integrity in public life is non-negotiable.

Rest well, Councillor Martin Williams. You gave your city your best, and we will not forget you. Thank you."

5 MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE BY OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES

Councillor J Mokome (COPE) addressed Council as follows:

"Honourable Speaker, fellow Councillors, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

We rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and colleague, Councillor Martin Williams. His passing is not only a loss to this Council, but to the city of Johannesburg and to the democratic values we all hold dear.

Before entering public office, Martin made his mark as a respected journalist and editor at The Citizen. He understood the vital role of the free press in strengthening our democracy, and he carried those principles of accountability, transparency, and truth into his work as a public representative.

As a Proportional Representative Councillor for the Democratic Alliance, Martin served this Council with distinction. He was steadfast in his commitment to the people of Johannesburg, ensuring that their concerns were heard, their needs represented, and their voices amplified. His contribution reflected the very essence of public service — selfless, principled, and focused on the common good.

Martin believed in the power of dialogue and the responsibility of leadership. He reminded us that while we may come from different political homes, we share a duty to serve our residents with integrity and dedication. His presence in this chamber was always marked by thoughtfulness, professionalism, and a deep respect for the democratic process.

On behalf of this Council, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, his colleagues, and his friends. We honour his memory not only in words, but by striving to emulate the values he embodied — honesty, accountability, and service above self.

Councillor Martin Williams has left us, but his contribution to this city and to this institution endures. May his soul rest in peace, and may his legacy continue to inspire us all."

Councillor C Rohlssen (ACDP) addressed Council as follows:

"I greet you all in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, amen.

Greetings, Madam Speaker; Executive Mayor in absentia; MMCs; Councillors; distinguished guests and residents of Johannesburg and the family of the Councillor Martin Williams.

Honourable colleagues, the ACDP would like to extend its heartfelt condolences to the family of Councillor Martin Williams and the DA caucus and all those affected by his passing. As you have received many messages of comfort and condolences, I wish you not only the comfort of your friends, colleagues and Councillors, but also the deepest comfort that can only come from the Lord Jesus Christ. And as you mourn may you have his peace that will carry you in this difficult time. May you not carry this burden alone because often there are so many questions during this time that we ask that we do not even know what questions to ask. We do not even know what the next step may be. And therefore, I ask you, dear colleagues and the family of Councillor Martin Williams, please do not carry these steps alone, but may the Lord carry you during this time and beyond.

We are celebrating an honourable man, an honourable Councillor, an honourable colleague today, who fought strongly and did exceedingly well in fighting for Ward 90, for his community. A strong leader, very vocal, wanting to be heard, and strong in speech, but also strong in action, very strong in action. Caring for the needs of his community, strong in speech, but also kind, in speech, a strong family man, loving his family dearly. We honour you, Councillor Martin Williams, and may your soul rest in peace.

Lord, I pray for those that he has left behind. That you will comfort them, that you will be with them, that you will guide their steps in the future, and that you will give them wisdom and your counsel, and most importantly, your love and your peace. We pray this in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen. I thank you."

Councillor M Coutriers (ActionSA) addressed Council as follows:

"Madam Speaker, to the colleagues and the esteemed family of the late Martin Williams, I offer my deepest condolences and sympathies.

As we gather today, I draw inspiration from that old passage that we always put on leaflets, and I think a lot of us do not know where it comes from. The passages: "I

fought the good fight. I finished the race. I have kept the faith." This comes from 2 Timothy 4 verse 7.

Madam Speaker, despite our differences in party affiliation. Martin and I shared a common commitment, and he shared that commitment with lots of other Councillors in this Chamber, to serving humanity. His dedication to the people of Johannesburg was evident in his distinguished service as both a Councillor and a Journalist. As the Managing Editor of the Witness and editor of the Citizen. He tirelessly advocated for the voiceless. And as we all know, Martin's humility, his maturity and his calm demeanor earned him great respect. He articulated his views with clarity, conviction and respect, even in challenging times. His legacy serves as a powerful reminder of the values that should guide our public service. While Martin's passing leaves a void in our city, and his family mourns the loss of a loving father, his teachings and contributions will continue to inspire.

To his family, whom he served in the Democratic Alliance, I, together with the leadership of ActionSA, extend our sincerest condolences. We pray that his legacy endures and may we strive to emulate his commitment to service and integrity. Thank you."

Councillor D Manganyi (IFP) addressed Council as follows:

"Honourable Speaker; members of Council; family and friends of the late Councillor Martin Williams. On behalf of the Inkatha Freedom Party caucus, I rise to honour the memory of a colleague who gave so much to our city and our country.

Before Councillor Williams joined this Council, he had already served the nation through journalism as a writer and later as Editor of the Citizen. He shaped debate, defended the truth and gave voice to those who needed it most. He understood that words carry responsibility, and he used them with integrity.

When he became a Councillor, he brought those same values into this public office: fairness, diligence, humility and service. He never sought attention for himself, but he worked quietly and consistently for the people of Ward 19 and for the City of Johannesburg. To us across party lines, he was a man of principle. He was thoughtful and respectful in all engagements. His example reminds us that politics, at its best, is about saving people, not self.

The people of Johannesburg have lost a dedicated servant. This Council has lost a valued colleague. His family has lost a loved one who gave deeply of himself. As the IFP caucus, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the Williams family, to his colleagues in the Democratic Alliance and to all who mourn with us today. As we remember his life and his service, let us hold onto these words by Thomas Campbell, "To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die".

May his soul rest in peace. Thank you, Speaker."

Councillor Ntoele (EFF) addressed Council as follows:

“Greetings Speaker; Executive Mayor in absentia; the leadership of the EFF; distinguished guests and the residents of Johannesburg.

Today, we are here to honour one of our own, Councillor Martin Williams, a public servant who served in the City of Johannesburg for the longest time with dignity and integrity. Councillor Williams was a humble person; he did not talk much.

We share our deepest sympathy and condolences with the family of Councillor Williams, the community of Ward 90 and the DA caucus for their loss. We know that you have lost a very good person. You will always remember him and the memories that you shared. I think this Council will always remember Councillor Williams as a humble and very respecting man. We share our deepest condolences. Thank you”

Councillor Y Zigebe (UDM) addressed Council as follows:

“Madam Speaker; the Executive Mayor; Chair of Chairs; Whip of Council; Chairpersons of Section 79 committees; the entire Council and guests in the gallery. On behalf of the United Democratic Movement, I rise with a heavy heart to extend our deepest condolences on the passing of Councillor Martin Williams.

Today we join hands across party lines not as opponents, but as fellow South Africans united in grief and in respect for a man who dedicated himself to public service with great sincerity and determination. Councillor Williams served the City of Johannesburg and the people of South Africa through his role in the Democratic Alliance. His parting leaves avoid not only in his party but in the wider Democratic community to which we all belong.

Though we came from different political homes, we recognized in Councillor Williams, a man of principle. He was thoughtful, measured and committed to the work of building a better society. His prior work in journalism gave him a keen eye for truth and in Council, he applied that same sharp sense of accountability and transparency. Values we all share and cherish in our young democracy. He believed in robust debate, but he also believed in decency. He challenged ideas without belittling people and listened with the intention to understand. That is a rare quality in politics, and it is one we must all strive to emulate. His contribution to local government, particularly in Johannesburg, reflected a deep commitment to community and to the practical realities of governance. Whether we agreed with him or not on certain matters, we never doubted that he acted in the interest of those he served.

To the Democratic Alliance, please accept our condolences as you mourn the loss of a dedicated servant and valued colleague, his legacy is now yours to uphold.

To his family and loved ones, we honour the sacrifices you made so that Martin could fulfil his calling. We share in your loss, and we pray that you may find peace and knowing how respected and appreciated he was even by those beyond the party he called home.

And in remembering Councillor Martin Williams, let us be reminded that democracy is strengthened when we see one another's humanity. When we choose respect over

rivalry and service over self-interest. Martin lived those values and for that, we honour him. May soul rest in peace. Thank you."

Councillor N Mazibuko (ANC) addressed Council as follows:

"Madam Speaker, Councillor Arnolds; Mayor Councillor Morero in absentia; MMCs; Whip of Council; Chair of Chairs; Chairpersons of Section 79; fellow councillors; family of Councillor Williams in absentia; residents of Johannesburg, good morning.

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, but love leaves a memory no one can steal. These words resonate deeply today as we gather to honour the life and legacy of Councillor Williams. We come together not only in sorrow, but in profound gratitude for a life of service, integrity and passion. A life that touched countless people and left an enduring impact on our community.

For over a decade, Councillor Williams served the people of Ward 90 in the City of Johannesburg, dedicating himself to the betterment of his constituency. His time in local government was marked by a commitment for transparency, accountability and, above all, a genuine desire to improve the lives of those he represented. He works tirelessly to address their concerns, finding solutions and offering support where it was most needed.

Before his career in politics, Councillor Williams had already made a significant mark in the world of journalism. He was the Managing Director of the Witness from 1992 to 1994 and in his nineteen years of the Citizen he held as an Editor. His leadership of the publication earned him the respect of his colleagues and readers alike. Under his stewardship, the Citizen became a trusted source of the news, and an insight rooted in unwavering commitment to the truth, fairness and investigative journalism.

He retired from his editorial career in 2013, leaving behind a legacy of journalistic excellence that shaped the media landscape in South Africa, but Councillor Williams' contributions didn't stop there. He was also an avid runner, a passion that defined much of his personal life between 1982 and 2012. He completed 23 Comrades Marathon, achieving 2 silvers, 17 bronze and 4 Vic Clapham medals, a reflection of his incredible discipline, perseverance and determination. His best time set in 1985 was 7 hours, 11 minutes and 13 seconds, an achievement that stands as a testament to his commitment to pushing himself beyond limits. Councillor Williams love for running did not end with Comrades Marathon. He was a loyal participant in the Two Oceans Marathon, completing the race multiple times. In 2012, he ran the Boston Marathon, finishing in 3 hours, 58 minutes and 20 seconds. In true South African fashion, he proudly crossed the finish line wearing a vibrant South African flag, running vest and matching shorts, sharing the moment with his friends and followers on Facebook. His athletic pursuit, much like his work in journalism and politics, were guided by the same principle of perseverance, dedication and passion. Councillor Williams faced every race with the same drive and commitment that he brought to everything he did, whether advocating for his constituency, leading a newsroom or running a marathon. But Councillor Williams legacy is not only in the races ran, or the stories he has told, it is in the countless life he touched through his work, his friendships and his service to others. He was a mentor, a colleague and a friend to many, always approachable, always willing to listen and always driven by a desire to make a difference. His energy,

warmth and enthusiasm for life made him a source of inspiration to all who had the privilege to know him.

The African National Congress joins with all South Africans in mourning his passing. Through our political views, we may have differed, we shared in the respect for his commitment to the service of Johannesburg and its people. As we reflect on his life, we are reminded of the words of Maya Angelou; "People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel". He demonstrated through his actions and his words that service to others is the highest calling.

To his family, friends, colleagues and all who loved him, as the African National Congress, we offer our deepest condolences. We know that his memory will live on in the lives he touched and the impact he made through his work and his passion. Councillor Williams legacy will continue to inspire us to lead with compassion, to serve with integrity and to have and never stop pursuing excellence in both our personal and professional lives.

As we say our final goodbye, let us take comfort in the words of second Timothy, chapter 4 verse 7; "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith". Councillor Williams fought the good fight. He finished the race with strength, honour and determination, and he did so with unwavering faith in the power of service, truth and community.

Rest in peace, Councillor Williams. Your legacy will live on, in the hearts of Johannesburg and beyond in the memories of those you mentored, the work you did and the inspiration you provided. You will be missed dearly."

The Speaker expressed gratitude to all political parties for their heartfelt messages of condolence to the bereaved family. She then requested the House to observe a moment of silence in honour of Councillor Williams.

Thereafter, the Speaker addressed Council as follows:

"On behalf of the City of Johannesburg, we continue to extend our heartfelt condolences to the family. We understand how difficult this time must be for you as you grieve the loss of a beloved son, brother, husband, father and uncle and us as a colleague. Our prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Councillor Martin Williams was sworn in to serve the people of Ward 90 with commitment and integrity after the 2011 local government elections. He was eventually allocated that very seat in Council where his name was always proudly displayed each time. He attended Council meetings, a constant reminder of his presence, his voice, and his unwavering service. On the 31 August 2025, Councillor Williams passed away.

Today, the Council flag with the Code of Arms is placed on his seat, and his name is being represented by the pillar candle and flowers, symbolising that he will never attend Council meetings anymore. We honoured him and tributes were made by all political parties represented in Council.

This Special Council Meeting is also being held to officially remove his name in this Chamber. A protocol ritual known as Ukusula Igama, sad as it is for all of us, this is the reality we must accept."

6 COMMENTS BY FAMILY REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Shackelford L (DA) on behalf of the family addressed Council as follows:

"Good morning, Madam Speaker, and all protocol is observed. I'm honoured today to read a tribute to Martin Williams, Councillor Ward 90, by his wife Alison Williams.

Martin was a Councillor for 10 years. His untimely death has left us all stricken with grief but grateful for the precious time we had with him. Martin was a totally dedicated Councillor, always responding to residents in evenings and over weekends. The volume of work did feel overwhelming at times but he somehow managed to juggle the many aspects of a Councillor's life, all residents were treated as equals and were given equal attention. Martin forged connections with many hundreds of people. He loved working with his fellow Councillors, and his attitude was always humble, positive and proactive. It was important to him to believe the best of people. His mantras were, "I prefer to see the best of everybody; it saves so much trouble". "Worker's love made visible". "A lot of life is what you make of it".

Martin Walked 10,000 steps every day, rain or shine, and he loved having a quick swim daily too. He was loved deeply by his family, and he loved spending time with us, his sons Matthew and James, his daughters in law Ismirelda and Genevieve, and his grandsons Max and Leo, who were his pride and joy. We will mourn Martin with the respect and love as we try to come to terms with his loss. Thank you."

7 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CLOSURE

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:05.


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SPEAKER OF COUNCIL
CLLR M ARNOLDS

...08/01/2026.....
DATE