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MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 3 March 2025

Street Re-naming proposed to Honour Don Mattera and Local Icons: Call for Public Comment

Re-naming proposals for honouring community heroes and icons in Eldorado Park and Westbury are being opened for public comment. Among the shortlist of proposed names is writer Don Mattera, together with sporting legend Donnie Gilmour. Teen-age shooting victim Nathaniel Julies, whose life was tragically cut short in 2020, has also been proposed for a street naming in Eldorado Park.

To help celebrate these figures, and etch them in public memory, the City of Johannesburg is considering proposals for re-naming the following streets and public facilities:

- Main Road in Eldorado Park to be re-named Don Mattera Road.
- Westbury Recreation Centre to be re-named Don Mattera recreation Centre; and
- Mabaleng Sports Ground in Westbury is to be re-named Donnie Gilmour Sports Ground.
- Nikkel Crescent in Eldorado Park to be re-named Nathaniel Julies Crescent.

A celebrated author, poet, journalist and anti-apartheid activist, **Don Mattera** (1935 to 2022) is among the most revered South African writers and cultural figures of our time. Besides his autobiography Memory is a Weapon (1987), his writing includes Azanian Love Song and other collections of poetry, short stories and plays. He founded the Union of Black journalists and wrote at various times for The Star, The Sunday Times, The Weekly Mail, and The Sowetan. Mattera was the recipient of several literary and humanitarian awards, local and international.

Athlete and local hero **Donnie Gilmour** (1934-1996) is remembered for an outstanding football career, marking his mark at club, provincial and national level. as a talented

striker. Donnie Gilmour's involvement with soccer development did not end with his retirement as a player but progressed into management and soccer administration.

Nathaniel Julies was a 16-year-old boy with down syndrome who was fatally shot by SAPS officers in 2020, close to his home on Nikkel Crescent. The shooting brought a wave of public outrage and sympathy, and a petition calling for the prosecution of those involved in the shooting was signed by over 120 000 people. The re-naming proposal calls for the re-naming of Nikkel Crescent where Julies lost his life, and where community members have erected a memorial in his honour.

Re-naming proposals to honour author, and activist Don Mattera, as well as sportsman Donnie Gilmour, have been put forward by the Don Mattera Legacy Foundation.

The re-naming of Nickel Crescent in Eldorado Park to Nathaniel Julies Crescent has been proposed by Community Accountability Gatekeepers, representing the Julies family.

The proposed re-naming's of streets and facilities in Eldorado Park and Westbury will be subject to public consultation, in accordance with the City of Johannesburg Policy on naming of Streets and Public Places. As stated in the Policy:

"The process of naming or renaming must be undertaken in a consultative manner, and this must be clearly demonstrated before a final decision can be taken by Council."

Residents, stakeholders and interested parties are encouraged to send comments on the re-naming proposals for streets and facilities in Eldorado Park and Westbury to the City Directorate of Arts, Culture and Heritage. Comments and enquiries in respect of the re-naming proposals should be addressed to:

- **Kopano Monaheng** kopanomo@joburg.org.za
- **Dominica Masalesa** dominicam@joburg.org.za

The period of public comment will be open for a period of 28 days, starting on **3 March 2025 and end on 31 March 2025**.

All submissions and comments received will be considered by Council before taking a final decision.

ENDS

Issued by the City of Joburg