

BRAAMFONTEIN CRIME PREVENTION PLAN:

Programme Director,

His Worship, the Executive Mayor, Cllr Geoffrey Makhubo

MMC for Public Safety: Cllr Mally Mokoena

Cllr Nokuthula Xaba, is the ward councillor of this ward

President of the Wits SRC, Mr Mpendulo Mfeka

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

Let me start by saying that I stand here today, very proud of each and every person and or party that has played a role in ensuring that today becomes a reality. I myself as a victim of crime, having survived a brutal hi-jacking in my earlier years as a young woman, do not ever wish that kind of experience, or any other act of crime on any other person, especially not on a young person.

Therefore, on the day that I met with the Wits SRC and as they relayed their stories, I could relate deeply to their concerns, their fears, and their frustrations. You know, when you are young, and still navigating your way around your life in generally, but particularly the varsity space, your environment at that particular time shapes you, and you carry the memories of that part of your life forever.

Therefore we cannot allow young women to be robbed of their innocence, stripped of their youthfulness and terrorised by criminal elements in our midst. We cannot allow them to live what is meant to be their best lives in fear. We cannot allow them to bear life changing scars that they must carry with them for the rest of their lives because of senseless crimes.

As I sat across the table from them in our first meeting, I believed then, as I still do now, that we as their local government, owe it to these young people to work together with them to keep the streets of Braamfontein safe, if it is the only thing we do.

- So First and Foremost, let me thank His Worship, the Executive Mayor, Cllr Geoffrey Makhubo for prioritising this very important occasion. This signifies that indeed you take the plight of the young people of Braamfontein seriously. Ours as the Legislature is really just to provide the oversight role, and are very proud of the work that you have done today as the Executive, and it is testament of the fact that there is a will to bring our communities along in fighting and preventing crime. Thank you very much Mr Mayor.
- Let me take the time to thank the MMC for Public Safety, MMC Mally Mokoena. You know, when my team reached out to your office following our meeting with the Wits SRC Leadership regarding the safety issues they raised in Braamfontein, the response we received was swift and positive, and that epitomizes Inter-Governmental Relations at play. But I know that the MMC is always willing to listen to the plight of young people, so it was in fact not surprising that she intently dropped everything to engage on this issue, so thank you very much MMC.
- Thank you to Mr President, Mpendulo Mfeka for your leadership, and a big thank you to your SRC team as well for allowing us into your space, and also for being patient with the process. Last year when we met in October, one of the things I said to you was that I did appreciate that there seemed to be a gap between young people and their government.

I also committed to closing that gap. I hope that this is the first of many instances where the gap will continue to be narrowed between us as your government, and yourselves.

- A big thank you to Cllr Nokuthula Xaba for your unwavering support as the ward councillor, and for always speaking truth to power. I know that you are always on the ground and thank you for your presence today.
- Thank you to all the officials who have worked hard to ensure that this day is actually happens and that it is a success.
- Thank you to all the students who are here today, all community leaders, members of the media, as well as the programme director, Mr Xolani Fihla, you have done a great job sir.

As a parting shot, let me lend a quote from Tat' Madiba who once said: *“Safety and security don't just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear.”*

I thank you.