



Building 4,
Boskruin Village Office Park
Cnr President Fouché & Hawken Road
Bromhof, 2188

Tel: 087 170 0639
Email: info@joburgcan.org.za

19 April 2024

To: Cllr. Kabelo Gwamanda
Executive Mayor

By Email: executivemayor@joburg.org.za

To: Cllr. Margret Arnolds
Speaker of Council

By Email: margaretA@joburg.org.za

To: Mr. Andile Gobinca
Acting Secretary to Council

By Email: Andileg@joburg.org.za

Submission via email: idpcomments2024@joburg.org.za & ratescomments2024@joburg.org.za

CC: Floyd Brink
Municipal Manager

By Email: floydb@joburg.org.za

JoburgCAN written response to the City Of Johannesburg IDP, Budget, Rates Policy, Rates Bylaw and proposed tariffs 2024/25.

1. JoburgCAN, an initiative of OUTA, is a proudly South African non-profit entity composed of and supported by residents who are passionate about improving the prosperity of the City of Johannesburg (CoJ). JoburgCAN was established to help improve service delivery, participate in local government affairs and build community within the CoJ. JoburgCAN represents affiliates and supporters living in all seven regions of the CoJ. JoburgCAN is a properly established community-based organisation acting in unison and on behalf of its affiliates.

JoburgCAN initiative

Reg No.: 2012/064213/08

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2. In terms of Sections 21 and 25 of the Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000, read with Chapter 4 of the Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003, the Municipal Budget Circulars No 98 and 99, Municipal Entities Business Plans and the Municipal Property Rates Act 6 of 2004, the City of Johannesburg considered and endorsed its draft 2024/25 Integrated Development Plan (IDP); draft Medium-Term Budget, draft Rates Policy; draft Rates Bylaws, proposed Rates Tariffs and proposed tariffs for trading services and other services at the Ordinary Council meeting on the 19 March 2024 for public participation and public comment by 22 April 2024.
3. As per Chapter 4 of the MFMA, public participation is a legal requirement of the Integrated Development Plan, budget and tariff process. Disruptions, technical difficulties and postponements have marred the regional meetings. The timeline and deadline, one weekend day (Sunday 21 April) following the last of these public meetings (Saturday 20 April), is further only 21 working days since the ordinary council meeting tabling these documents for comment.
4. Civil society and community organisations do detailed and considered responses to these programs and the city is expected to be able to inform, engage and respond to resident concerns in the process. Further the inclusion of the overhaul of the Rates Bylaw policy in this process is of concern, as the policy has been largely overhauled and didn't appear in the public presentation at regional meetings. The office of the MMC for Finance has been approached for a formal tracked changes presentation of the rates policy, but has not responded to councillors. The rates policy bylaw should be opened to a separate public participation process or the policy review is prejudicial as residents cannot be expected to analyse, process and meaningfully respond to the vast documents in this inadequately short timeframe.
5. The locations (in some regions the meetings were out of their areas for example Region F), time (mostly weekday afternoons), availability of presentations, difficult to follow audio and hybrid meeting access not being granted in the public meetings is a clear indication that the public participation process needs to be extended and deepened before the matter is brought to council for adoption.
6. We formally request an extension for submissions to at least April 30 2024.



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Regards,

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