

City excited to host street people summit in October

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He said that the City launched its winter readiness programme for street people on Wednesday May 1.

“The City has partnered with 16 shelters across the metro to temporarily increase the amount of bed space at the shelters by 247 beds.

“The shelters are provided with additional resources, including groceries, bedding, toiletries, cleaning materials and Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) opportunities, so that more homeless people can benefit from shelter during the winter, the programme continues until the end of October.

“The City has launched a ‘Give Dignity Campaign’ and is encouraging residents to donate goods at their libraries to help street people at our participating shelters and safe space during the winter period,” he said.

Goodwood Ratepayers’ Association chairman, Faizel Petersen, said the community of Good-

wood is constantly reminded to “give responsibly” (a call to action to support the work done by non-governmental organisations that give street people an alternative to life on the streets) as the giving of handouts is what attracts homeless to the area, who then end up setting up camp in the area to regularly be clothed and fed and receiving money occasionally.

“This has resulted in criminals moving around in the area disguised as homeless who then actively become involved in robberies,” he said.

Mr Petersen said that a derelict property at 5 Anderson Street, Goodwood, has become a major headache for them

“SAPS has done various operations and has found up to 40 people living on the property. There is no toilet facilities, no running water and people are relieving themselves all over the property, which has a direct impact on the neighbours.

“Metro police has also done various operations and also said

the premises is not suitable for occupation. In April 2019, the ratepayers, Goodwood Neighbourhood Watch and police met with the owner to try and work out a solution, and the owner made a commitment to start developing the property by end of June this year. He has failed to honour that,” he said.

Mr Petersen has since lodged a formal complaint with the City’s land use management department and the owner, Fuad Carlie, is set to appear in court in November this year.

Dr Badroodien said the street people population statistics enable all levels of government to make necessary policy changes aimed at increasing or improving initiatives to support those individuals who sleep rough in the city.

“We are excited to host the street people summit in October this year, in collaboration with our partners, which is sure to drive innovative policy solutions to address and support our street people,” he said.



■ Mayor Dan Plato and Dr Zahid Badroodien encouraged residents to give responsibly.