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POLLUTION

# Crackdown on illegal dumping

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IN its efforts to crack down on widespread illegal dumping in the metro the City has seized more than 100 vehicles used in the act in the past 14 months.

The Philippi Horticultural Area, Swartklip Road, Old Faure Road, and Tafelsig are among the areas that are regarded as hot spots.

Between July last year and the end of the last month, the City's Law Enforcement Department impounded 101 vehicles where people were caught in the act of dumping illegally, with 9014 fines issued for dumping and littering. A total of 1590 reports of dumping between July 2021 and June this year were received, while the Law Enforcement Graffiti Unit removed

more than 28000 square metres of illegal graffiti.

Safety and Security mayoral committee member JP Smith said vehicles used to illegally dispose of waste like builders' rubble, garden, or garage waste were impounded in terms of the Integrated Waste Management By-law.

Smith said that apart from the mess it created, the health risks stemming from illegal dumping were of concern.

"While rubble and garden waste are among the common items, our officers do come across far more dangerous dumped items, including medication and expired, rotting food waste.

"In many instances, residents make use of open spaces or corners in their own neighbourhoods to dump illegally," Smith said.

Ward 82 councillor in Tafelsig, Washiela Harris, said that despite

having two teams of Expanded Public Works Programme workers, dumping in the ward remains a huge concern. Harris said usually residents would not put out their bins on collection days. She said they would entrust this to other people whom they would pay to dump at an open field, which she said was unacceptable.

"We are taking hands with mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis and Mayco member Grant Twigg, who are running clean-up campaigns throughout the city. Ward 82 in Tafelsig West has started the campaign, and I am including clean-ups with my Neighbourhood Watch, Walking Bus Members and ECDs in the area. We are also thankful to the mayor and the City of Cape Town for offering a reward when there is a fine issued or the dumpers get prosecuted," she said.



THE City says in some cases service providers charge a fee to remove waste and instead of using dumping sites they find the nearest open field.

Andre Arendse from the Strandfontein Ratepayers' Forum and Economic Development said the city had dump sites in various areas, however, if more information could be available to residents about where these dump sites were it would help to ease the problem.