

RECLAIM THE CITY

**LAND FOR
PEOPLE**
NOT FOR PROFIT!

19 May 2016

Call for support: #StopTheSale of Tafelberg and desegregate Cape Town

Dear XXXX XXXX

I hope this note finds you well. We need your support for a vibrant group of activists from the Reclaim the City campaign in Cape Town. The movement consists of workers, particularly domestic workers in Sea Point, students, and young professionals from across the city. They have done a great escalate the demand for desegregation in Cape Town in recent months.

These men and women are in the midst of an epic battle with the Western Cape Provincial Government, property developers and wealthy racists in Sea Point - all extremely formidable powers. Through mobilising on the city's streets, they are building a groundswell of resistance against the sale of a prime piece of public land, the Provincially owned Tafelberg Remedial School site, to a private buyer.

The site has a proven potential for affordable housing development. In spite of its commitment to reverse what apartheid forced removals and influx control did to our city, government has built no subsidised housing near the Cape Town inner city since 1994. There is a shortage of land with the potential to house workers near to their employment – a condition which condemns hundreds of thousands of workers to lengthy, costly and dangerous daily commutes from the townships established by the apartheid regime. Others, like many domestic workers in Sea Point, live in horrible conditions in the city. They face eviction threats and regular abuses from their white employers and landlords.

The isolation of poor black and coloured people is sustained in Cape Town today. Racists in suburbs formerly reserved for whites only oppose the integration of working class families at every turn. Private developers band together to price poor people out where they have a foothold in such areas close to the city - the gentrification of Sea Point and Woodstock stand as good examples. There is no political will from our elected officials to develop and protect affordable housing near the inner city. Meanwhile, the destitution of our comrades in the city's far-flung informal settlements approaches the level of a humanitarian catastrophe.

In this crisis, Tafelberg has become a site of resistance against the continuation of apartheid planning and principles in our city today.

What the campaign needs from you

I have agreed to support our comrades, in Sea Point and from across the city, by approaching South Africans of good standing and conscience for their support.

You can support them by contributing a short personal objection to the sale of Tafelberg.

We would also like to use your objection publicly, as an inspiration for other Capetonians to follow suit. Your permission for this would be much appreciated.

There is some urgency to this request, as the objections period has already been open for a week. I look forward to your response.

Warm regards

Zackie