



26 May 2016

Press alert: Reclaim the City supporters lodge racism complaint against David Polovin of SFB Ratepayers

At noon today, three Reclaim the City supporters will submit a racism complaint for investigation by the office of Mayor Patricia de Lille at the Civic Centre.

Emma Daitz, Thandeka Sisusa and Zackie Achmat have scheduled to hand over the complaint in writing to a representative from the Mayor's office at the Civic Centre at 12:00 noon. They will be available for press interviews on the steps of the Civic Centre (opposite the MyCiti bus terminal).

The complaint is lodged against David Polovin, the deputy chairman of the Sea Point Fresnaye Bantry Bay Ratepayers and Residents and relates to comments attributed to him in the Weekend Argus ("Hands off Tafelberg", 14 May 2016, p 8).

Racism takes many forms, it need not include the use of crude language or racial epithets. The complainants argue that Polovin's comments exemplify a racist and anti-poor logic with deep roots in the history of this city and with contemporary and unacceptable consequences for the lives of black Capetonians.

Our Constitution and the Equality Act prohibit direct and indirect discrimination based on the grounds of race and socio-economic status. In this case, sophisticated indirect racism has a devastating and direct impact. Polovin speaks on behalf of the Sea Point, Fresnaye, and Bantry Bay Rates Payers and Residents – a lobby group of mainly extremely wealthy white residents and property developers.

For the full complaint, see the attached document.

For further details on the campaign to #StopTheSale of Tafelberg click [here](#).

For comment:

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