FISH HOEK VALLEY RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

(Incorporating Fish Hoek, Clovelly and Sun Valley)

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TO: COUNCILLOR AIMEE KUHL, aimee.kuhl@capetown.gov.za

SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDING OF THE CITY'S INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BY-LAW

1. DISCUSSION

As apparently several neighbourhood watches and security companies operating in the Fish Hoek Valley believe there is a correlation between bin pickers, criminal activities and the encouragement thereof, please consider requesting the City's Legal Services to propose amending the City's Integrated Waste Management By-Law 2009 and as amended to include appropriate wording discouraging such activities.

Although the City encourages re-cycling and waste reduction, it is believed that the deliberate placement by residents of valuable (second-hand) goods with their rubbish for collection by the City's Solid Waste Department is actually attracting unwanted attention from criminals as the items have probably been replaced / upgraded already. The same goes for cartons / boxes that contained the replaced items, even when broken / knocked down. It is believed that both actions are acting as advertisements of newly replaced goods now available and of interest for house break-ins.

The Fish Hoek Valley is aware of the plight of the homeless and destitute, but we believe that the removal of food items from rubbish bins imposes a potential health risk. Of more concern is the criminal posing as a bin picker that also opens the resident's rubbish bin, but is actually scouting the residence for future house break-in attempts.

In this by-law, section 23 deals with offences and penalties and thus, might be an appropriate section for inclusion of the above proposed amendments.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that, for the reasons set out in this report that the City's Integrated Waste Management By-Law be amended:

- Making it a punishable offense to place items of value in, on or near a rubbish bin or recycle bag placed by the resident or agent thereof for City collection purposes; and
- Making it a punishable offense to open a rubbish bin placed by the resident or agent thereof for the purpose of removing contents, except by the resident, City officials or agents thereof.

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