



Democratic Alliance Johannesburg Media Statement Democratic Alliance Councillor Carlos Da Rocha

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Will the new ward based policing plan work?

It has been long in the Public Safety Department's reports that there is a "ward based policing plan" which should encompass the JMPD 10 plus plan.

These two would be great plans and should produce resounding results for combating crime in wards. The plans are designed in such a way that they complement each other and maximise reduction of crime on a ward basis.

However, novel ideas keep emerging while previous plans are abandoned without having tested whether they work or not. The 10 JMPD per ward plan was a brilliant concept that would bring relief to councillors across the wards of Johannesburg. It's a plan that would save the city millions of Rands.

This plan would encourage citizens of Johannesburg to respect the JMPD officers and the law. "From personal experience, and other councillors across the city, that's not happening, on paper yes, but not on the streets of Johannesburg," says DA Cllr Carlos Da Rocha.

He says that for this plan to work there needs to be committed officers who work in unity with ward councillors.

"We need police officers that will get into the wards and become pro-active JMPD officers. They need to patrol the streets, and deal with open abuse of the bylaws, and not just only when the councillors ask them to," he says.

The DA believes that there needs to be enough man power, to maintain the consistency of police presence in the wards. The JMPD ten plus, which is the second plan was a more ambitious plan however more difficult to implement. It would have also been a great plan if it was operating properly.

“It would have been a plan that could get Citizen Relation and Urban Management involved properly, working hand in hand with law enforcement. A plan that would involve all the departments of the city and that will be instant, proactive, reactive and affective. But again we must revert to the first plan, to understand its short falls,” says Cllr Da Rocha.

He expresses, “Now we have been told of the “ward based policing plan” but where is this plan, Mr. mayor, roll it out for us to see and make the plan work the way it should on the streets!”

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