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City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality
Revenue & Customer Relations Management Department

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To: Chairperson

From: Mandy Jean Woods
Director: Customer Communications

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CITY APPEALS TO RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS TO ASSIST IN PREPARING RESIDENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW RATES TARIFFS ON 1 JULY THIS YEAR

The City's Rates & Taxes Director has issued an appeal to Residents Associations and other community groups to assist in getting vital information on the new rates policy and the proposed rates tariffs out to property owners.

"We would like to ensure that our residents are well informed, educated and prepared for the implementation of the Municipal Property Rates Act on 1 July 2008," says Erika Naude, Director: Rates and Taxes.

The Act requires the City to do two main things:

- Firstly, to **introduce a new General Valuation Roll**: The objection period for the General Valuation Roll began on 27 February and will end at 16h30 on 27 May this year. "Residents need to check the value of their property on the Roll, as it will be used to work out the rates they will have to pay for the next year," says Naude.
- Secondly, to approve a **Rates Policy**. The policy and By Law have been approved after extensive community participation. The policy sets out the criteria for a number of issues including categories of property owners who will pay rates, rebates (criteria for qualification and percentage of rebate applicable); criteria around phasing in of rates

payable; and sets the threshold to be excluded from residents value for the purpose of rating.

“Since the system of rates is so significantly different from the past, we have made an enormous effort to communicate this complex matter to residents. But we still receive many queries about this so we would like to appeal to Residents Associations to contact us for information,” says Naude. She points out that once the public participation phases for the various elements of implementation pass, final decisions will be made by Council and these will be binding on residents for at least the next 12 months.

Naude says meetings can be arranged or information forwarded to explain the implications, processes required and background regarding the new General Valuation Roll, the new Rates Policy and the implications of the proposed rates tariffs. Interested associations can contact Naude by email at erikan@joburg.org.za.

ENDS

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