
**RESOLUTION OF THE AGM OF THE OBSERVATORY CIVIC ASSOCIATION (OCA)
HELD AT OBSERVATORY ON 24th NOVEMBER 2020**

1. **WHEREAS** the Observatory Civic Association (OCA) has adopted a Constitution (as amended) on 3 September 2019; and
2. **WHEREAS** the Constitution states that the OCA's objectives are to (*inter alia*): -
 - Provide a public forum for concerns and opinions about the full range of civic issues that affect Observatory;
 - Identify, express and address the concerns of the community within the boundaries of the Association;
 - Represent the interests of the community in civic matters; and
 - Promote an active interest in, and to consider the policies and affairs of the City of Cape Town and of the sub-council of which Observatory is part; and further
3. **WHEREAS** Municipal democracy requires the active participation of communities in the activities of local government; and
4. **WHEREAS** National legislation mandates local government to “encourage, and create conditions for, the local community to participate in the affairs of the municipality”, including the monitoring and review of the Municipality's performance and impact of such performance; as well and to build the capacity of the local community to participate and of councillors to foster community participation; and
5. **WHEREAS** Participation by the community in the affairs of the municipality must take place through councillors, amongst other structures and mechanisms; and
6. **WHEREAS** The Code of Conduct for Councillors under the Municipal Services Act refers to the obligation on councillors to be accountable to local communities so as to enable municipalities to meet the priority needs of communities by providing services equitably, effectively and sustainably within its means; and
7. **NOTING** that our Ward Councillor failed to make any comments to the Case Officer in objection to the rezoning of the River Club property in the recent rezoning of the River Club by the Municipal Planning Tribunal in September 2018, when it was well known that a large number of Observatory residents and business are deeply opposed to the development;

and,

8. BELIEVING that

- a) the relationship between the OCA and our Ward Councillor is no longer consistent with the intentions of the Municipal Services Act;
- b) Our Ward Councillor does not see himself accountable to the community of Observatory and trust has been broken between the OCA and our Ward Councillor
- c) For the intentions of the MSA to be fulfilled there should be an active commitment by the OCA and our Ward Councillor to repair this relationship so that the intent of the MSA is realised

9. NOW THEREFORE this AGM of the OCA held at Observatory on 24th November resolved to call on our Ward Councillor

- a) To commit to recognising the OCA as the representative of the community of Observatory in Civic matters
- b) To recognise that the accountability of the ward councillor to the community is a matter of law confirmed in the Municipal Services Act and that holding a ward councillor accountable is a requirement of civic democracy
- c) To commit to engaging respectfully with the OCA over matters affecting the community of Observatory
- d) To commit to a process of repairing the relationship between the OCA and his office with a view to re-establishing mutual trust
- e) To commit to communicating any concerns about the activities or intentions of the OCA directly to the OCA rather than via social media
- f) To commit to responding meaningfully to requests from the OCA for action on local community matter;

And;

10. IN RECIPROCITY, this AGM of the OCA held at Observatory on 24th November commits the OCA:

- a) To engage with the Ward Council over its concerns and the needs of communities
- b) To a process of repairing the relationship between the OCA and the Ward Councillor office with a view to re-establishing mutual trust
- c) To communicating any concerns about the activities or intentions of the Ward Councillor directly to the Ward Councillor rather than via social media
- d) To respond meaningfully to requests from the Ward Councillor regarding local community matters.

Proposed: Leslie London

Seconded: Edwin Angless

14th November 2020