



We are happy to share with you that the City of Cape Town has extended the public comment period for the Municipal Planning Amendment By-Law to **25 October 2024**. This is in no small part attributable to the efforts of the CRRA and two of our members, for reasons explained below. The announcement of the extension is an unprecedented achievement for civic activism and marks the start of a new era in which the people who live in Cape Town demand a proper voice in how the city's growth is managed and how development takes place.

On **13 August 2024**, three weeks after the City released its proposed amendments, the CRRA Exco and a CRRA member convened a meeting of ratepayers' and residents' associations (RAs) from across Cape Town. Representatives of over 20 RAs attended this meeting to share their concerns about the City's approach to land use planning, and the increasingly devastating impact this is having on the unique character of our neighbourhoods. Key outcomes of this meeting were an agreement to send an open letter to the Mayor outlining our concerns, and to secure funding for professional services to help us raise awareness of the issues.

On **4 September**, an initial group of 26 residents' and ratepayers' associations (together the **Collective Ratepayers' Association of the City of Cape Town, or CRA**) sent an open letter to the Mayor's office, with three key requests:

1. An immediate extension of the deadline for comment on the Municipal Planning Amendment By-law 2024 to 30 November 2024.
2. A one-on-one meeting with the Mayor and other senior officials from the Municipal Planning By-law Committee prior to end-September 2024.
3. To initiate the development of effective mechanisms to ensure that meaningful public participation processes are available to residents of the City of Cape Town.

[Open Letter to Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis by the CRRA - September 2024.pdf](#)

On **6 September**, the City of Cape Town issued a media release in which it stated that it "is aware of assertions voiced in a statement by the Collective Ratepayers' Association about the public participation process." The media release went on to defend the City's approach to densification, and to dispute the CRA's assertions about poor public participation in by-law amendment processes. The media release expressed that "All of those who want to raise concerns and submit comments on the revisions have time until 23 September to do so. The City remains willing to meet with concerned groups, such as the CRA." The CRA has approached the Mayor's office to schedule an urgent meeting.

[City of Cape Town media release 6.9.24.pdf](#)

On **11 September**, the CRA issued another press release, addressing the claims made in the City's media release about its approach to densification. The CRA membership has now grown to 35 residents' and ratepayers' associations and 5 affiliated groups.

[PRESS STATEMENT - Response to CoCT - 11 September 2024.pdf](#)

[Annexure A-C Updated 11 September 2024 RAs part of CRA.pdf](#)

On **12 September** the City announced that it had extended the deadline for comments on the by-law to 25 October, and also that it would host public meetings as follows:

- \* **In-person public meeting** on Tuesday, 8 October 2024, at 18:00 in the Cape Town Civic Council Chambers. Email request to [lums@capetown.gov.za](mailto:lums@capetown.gov.za) for registration purposes and include the questions of clarification in the request so that officials can prepare accordingly.
- \* An **online meeting** on Thursday, 10 October 2024, at 17:00. Email request to [lums@capetown.gov.za](mailto:lums@capetown.gov.za) for registration purposes and include questions for clarification.
- \* **Individual stakeholder meetings** will be arranged on request from representative groups; kindly send an email request to [lums@capetown.gov.za](mailto:lums@capetown.gov.za), and also include the questions on which clarification is needed.
- \* **Details of further meetings** will be communicated once dates have been confirmed.

We encourage as many of you as possible to register to attend these crucial public meetings. We will keep you updated on the Mayor's response to a request for a meeting with the CRA, and on any other developments. Please get in touch if you want to know more about how you can support this initiative.

The CRRA EXCO