

17 September 2019

Mayor of Cape Town Dan Plato, City Manager Lungelo Mbandazayo & Ward Councillor Angus McKenzie

Dear Sirs,

RE: The Bonteheuwel Peace Garden

The Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute (SAFCEI) is writing to support the call to the City of Cape Town to keep the Bonteheuwel Peace Garden for community use.

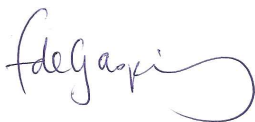
Initiatives such as the Bonteheuwel Peace Garden where the community has cleaned up land, which was used for illegal dumping and anti-social behaviour, and create a peace garden should be commended. The efforts of the Bonteheuwel Walking Ladies to turn this space into a garden earlier this year, after many years of neglect, is nothing short of miraculous.

Community gardens provide public spaces for social cohesion and green environs which have been shown to support healing and reconciliation, and promote connections with nature.

The Church of the Resurrection located alongside the garden has been trying to purchase this land from the City since 1994. We understand that the community would like the church to be given first preference to purchase this land.

We call on the City of Cape Town to stop the auction and consult with the community to co-create a sustainable alternative for this small but significant plot of land that is symbolic of so much that needs to be healed in our city.

Yours Sincerely,



Francesca de Gasparis
Executive Director