

From: Jason Grobbelaar <jasongrob@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Security Concerns at Markman Fresh Produce Market – Request for Risk Assessment and Intervention
Date: 09 July 2025 at 09:14
To: Printer

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From: Jason Grobbelaar <jasongrob@gmail.com>
Subject: Security Concerns at Markman Fresh Produce Market – Request for Risk Assessment and Intervention
Date: 08 July 2025 at 16:46:54 SAST
To: City Manager <cm@mandelametro.gov.za>
Cc: "Ward8, NMMM" <ward8@mandelametro.gov.za>, Rano Kayser <rainork@gmail.com>, sijadu1nojozi@gmail.com

Dear Acting City Manager: Mr Ted Pillay

Re: Security Concerns at Markman Fresh Produce Market – Request for Risk Assessment and Intervention

Democratic Alliance Safety and Security portfolio councillors conducted an unannounced Security oversight visit to the Markman Fresh Produce Market following reports of an abduction at this municipal facility.

Our findings from our oversight visit are deeply concerning, and it needs urgent attention.

See below findings, photos and our recommendations to enhance the security at this facility.

Findings:

- 1) **Inadequate Lighting:** The main entrance, parking areas and surrounding grounds have insufficient lighting. Vendors and staff start as early as 04h00, often in complete darkness. Lack of lighting increases the risk of criminal activity.
- 2) **Non-Functional Alarm and Panic Systems:** Alarm systems and panic buttons are not operational.
- 3) **Ineffective Access Control:** There is no verification of personal identification at the entrance. Vehicles with false or cloned number plates can easily gain access and poses a significant risk.
- 4) **No Working CCTV Surveillance:** Existing CCTV cameras are not functional and are not monitored by the NMBM. This undermines crime prevention efforts.
- 5) **Poorly Equipped Security Guards:** Security personnel lack basic equipment such as working radios, batons, pepper spray or tasers. They rely on personal cell phones for communication.
- 6) **Broken Vehicle Control Systems:** The front entrance boom is missing and the tyre arrestor is non-functional, leaving no means to prevent unauthorized vehicle entry or exit.
- 7) **Unsecured Boundary Wall:** Large open sections of the boundary wall allow undetected access to both vehicles and individuals.
- 8) **Unsafe Cash Handling Areas:** Approximately 60% of transactions at the facility are conducted in cash, yet the cashier stations are not monitored by CCTV and staff are without panic buttons.
- 9) **Large Area Without Surveillance:** The size of the facility requires electronic surveillance for effective monitoring.

Recommendations:

- 1) **Install Adequate Lighting:** Improve lighting around the entire facility, including entrances, buildings, and parking areas.
- 2) **Activate Alarm and Panic Systems:** Implement a functional alarm system with long-range mobile panic buttons and strategically placed panic buttons around the facility and offices.
- 3) **Improve Access Control Measures:** Enforce ID checks and a "No ID, No Entry" policy. All staff and vendors must be issued access cards and visitors must be registered and issued temporary ID cards. All vehicles must be searched upon entry and exit.
- 4) **Implement Effective CCTV Monitoring:** Install and maintain CCTV cameras linked to an off-site control room with human detection capabilities for early threat alerts to be relied to on-site security staff.

- 5) Equip Security Staff:** Provide functional two-way radios and self-defense equipment to all on-site guards.
- 6) Repair Vehicle Entry Systems:** Restore the boom gate and vehicle arrestor to prevent unauthorized access.
- 7) Secure the Perimeter:** Temporarily close open boundary sections using rolls of barbed wire until permanent solutions are in place.
- 8) Enhance Cash Handling Security:** Install CCTV and panic buttons in all cashier areas.
- 9) Conduct a Formal Security Assessment:** The NMBM must urgently carry out a security assessment to evaluate current risks and implement corrective actions and address the findings of this oversight visit.

The current state of security at the Markman Fresh Produce Market is unacceptable for a municipal facility of this nature. The safety of our market agents, customers and municipal staff must be prioritized with immediate effect.

The DA is requesting that a comprehensive security risk assessment be done within the next 30 days, followed by a detailed action plan to address safety issues at this municipal facility.

We look forward to your urgent response and cooperation in this matter.

Regards
Jason Grobbelaar



WARD 40

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