



CID workers march over unpaid salaries

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KERK Street City Improvement District (CID) workers yesterday marched to the mayor's offices in Centurion demanding to know why they had not been paid.

The workers, who provide security and cleaning services in a designated area, handed over a memorandum to MMC for Corporate and Shared Services and acting mayor Cilliers Brink.

In the memorandum, the workers demanded to know why CID Kerk Street workers had not been paid.

"We demand to know who was responsible for the CID project; we demand last month's payment of our salaries before the close of business today (yesterday); we demand to be permanently employed as City of Tshwane employees," they said.

Executive Mayor Solly Msimanga should also address them and resolve their grievances, they said.

A CID is a partnership between a municipality and private property owners in a specific area to provide

services above what the municipality provides. The property owners contribute a monthly levy to the CID to pay the workers for their services. City Property has ended its relationship with the CID.

According to the workers, represented by the United Private Sector Workers Union, October was the last month they were paid.

One of the directors, Pieter du Toit, has filed an application in the Gauteng High Court, Pretoria, to have the Kerk Street CID liquidated.

The workers said they were not informed of this until the Pretoria News inquired about it. Du Toit denied this, saying they had meetings with union representatives to let them know the CID was no longer functioning.

The workers continued working through November, but did not receive their pay.

However, it has turned out their anger was misdirected. "The Kerk Street CID is not an entity of the City of Tshwane, but an association of its members. It levies fees from these

members, and the directors of the CID manage its affairs," Brink said.

"There is no basis for CID workers to claim any obligations from the City of Tshwane, whether salaries or alternative employment. Whatever fight they have they must take to the directors of the CID."

He urged protesting CID workers to stop trashing streets to express their grievances as city workers had to clean up the mess, which was unfair.