

Local government's role in community safety

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Context

- community safety is an **outcome**, not a function
 - (not just an ‘unfunded mandate’)
- context: **fiscal constraint**, no money for new grants
- focus on a municipality’s **existing, ‘core’ functions**
- s 152(1)(d) Constitution: “safe and healthy environment”
- **beyond law enforcement** and traffic, emphasis on **violence prevention** and the **built environment**
- **inequality** as the overriding concern

LG's constitutional functions

- *building regulations*
- *child care facilities*
- *municipal planning*
- *municipal public transport*
- *cleansing*
- *control of public nuisances*
- *control of undertakings that sell liquor to the public*
- *noise pollution*
- *public places*
- *street lighting*
- *traffic and parking*
- *child care facilities*
- viewed through **prism of “community safety”**
- **collaboration** with other spheres of government
- importance of **mainstreaming** community safety in municipal IDPs and other plans

Municipal functions on community safety

- **land use** management, **urban design**, **housing** and **informality**
- management of **public spaces** and amenities
- adopting and enforcing **by-laws**
- **traffic**, **disaster** and emergency management
- community safety **partnerships**
- targeted crime and violence **prevention programmes** (vulnerable groups and groups at risk, GBV etc.)
- working with **local police**
- visible **policing** and crime prevention (in cities with MSP)
- **diversion and restorative justice** interventions (in municipalities with community courts)

(drawn from work of Melanie Dugmore)

Inequality

- The stubborn reality of **unequal distribution of 'safety'**
- Eg. ratio of **street lights**: number of street lights per person in Pinelands is **8,5 times higher** than the number of lampposts in Khayelitsha
- **origins** of the problem, **funding** arrangements, **protection** of infrastructure, bias towards **areas that contribute** property rates etc.
- human rights issue: why not have clear, legislated **minimum standards?**

Thank you