

March 20, 2020

The City of Calgary
P.O. Box 2100, Stn. M
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5

Attention:
Mayor Nenshi
City Councillors

Dear Mayor Nenshi and City Councillors,

Re: Community Associations request postponement of April 27th Guidebook for Great Communities Public Hearing item

In light of current COVID-19 realities and restrictions, including both municipal and provincial states of emergency, we the undersigned Community Associations request a postponement of the April 27th public hearing at Council on the Guidebook for Great Communities.

The City's response to a query about that date was that the, "current plan is for the Guidebook to go before Council April 27th to a public hearing. We have moved forward with advertising as such. Given the current pandemic, management will be discussing impact to our work program including if it is necessary to defer any reports. Until then we are assuming this one will move forward given it has been advertised."

Council should postpone consideration of the Guidebook until such a time as normal operations post-pandemic have returned.

The City of Calgary has never before faced a situation as critical as the COVID-19 pandemic. Councillors have many important issues to deal with either directly or indirectly related to the pandemic. Businesses are struggling, residents are isolated and restricted in their movements and focus must be on keeping essential services running.

The Guidebook will have significant impacts on the City and the communities in which we live, and citizens deserve to have a meaningful opportunity to respond to it in an open public hearing. **At this point in time, the Guidebook is far from people's minds.**

As Community Associations, it would be inconsiderate at this time to engage residents on policy topics such as the Guidebook/ or request they participate in a hearing on such topics when our role needs to be focused on community support.

The City has stated if the Public Hearing at Council were to go ahead on April 27, it would likely be "hosted online". There are many aspects of a public hearing that simply cannot be captured remotely. There would be no perception of the number of people that are responding to the agenda item, remote access lines could have people giving up in frustration and potentially this would be a deterrent to participation for those who are not technically oriented.

For the coming months, when we are all concerned with health, jobs, new economic realities and social upheavals, our citizens need some **stability** in their lives. For Calgarians and for CAs, for Councillors and the Mayor, as well as Administration, our time and energy would best be spent helping each other get through this pandemic.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter to remove the public hearing for the Guidebook from upcoming meetings and assure stakeholders this will be revisited at a more appropriate time.

Signed by 42 Communities Associations, including:

*** Wards 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11**

Bridgeland-Riverside CA	Mayfair Bel-Aire CA
Wildwood CA	Brentwood CA
Rosemont CA	Cambrian Heights CA
Meadowlark Park CA	Mount Royal CA
University Heights CA	Scarboro CA
Rutland Park CA	Inglewood CA
Elboya Heights Britannia CA	West Hillhurst CA
Elbow Park CA	Triwood CA
Hounsfield Heights - Briar Hill CA	Shaganappi CA
Scenic Acres CA	Marda Loop CA
Varsity CA	Rosedale CA
Northern Hills CA	Lakeview CA
Banff Trail CA	Braeside CA
Glamorgan CA	Chinook Park CA
Erlton CA	Cedarbrae CA
Willow Ridge CA	Oakridge CA
Southwood CA	Kingsland CA
Mount Pleasant CA	Rideau-Roxboro CA
Windsor Park CA	Tuxedo Park CA
Dalhousie CA	Bowness CA
Hillhurst Sunnyside CA	Parkdale CA