

# BRIEFING

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Item # 5.1.1

Deputy City Manager's Office Briefing to  
Strategic Meeting of Council  
2020 May 11

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## **Big City COVID-19 Relief Measures**

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### **PURPOSE OF BRIEFING**

The purpose of the briefing is to provide a comparative summary of the COVID-19 municipal relief measures offered by big cities in Canada. The relief measures from six big cities including Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa is highlighted in Attachment 1. The information in Attachment 1 was provided through members of the Big City Administrators' Table (BCAT), comprised of intergovernmental affairs staff from these same cities.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

The City of Calgary (The City) works with other municipalities and organizations such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) to share information, best practices, and on advocacy priorities to other orders of government. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance, strength, and value of working together with municipal colleagues across the country to leverage and share timely information, ideas, advocacy and relief measures to help citizens, businesses and communities.

Since the declarations of both the local state of emergency and the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, The City has participated in regular meetings via conference calls with other orders of government, FCM, AUMA, and big city colleagues such a Big City Administrators' Table to rapidly respond to the public health, social, economic, and financial impacts. One of the high priority focus areas is to offer timely support to citizens, businesses and communities through municipal relief measures.

The municipal relief measures offered by the six big cities include the following categories: property tax payment period extension/deferral; economic recovery and resilience governance; workforce; utilities payment deferrals; transit fares; business licences and fees; building inspections and permits; grants; reserves; and parking. The City of Calgary has implemented relief measures in many of the categories outlined in Attachment 1: Big City COVID-19 Relief Measures. By sharing and learning about relief measures in other big cities, The City has more timely and relevant information to help inform proposed recommendations to Council.

The City will continue to monitor the relief measures offered by other cities and will seek clarity on federal and provincial aid programs. The City will also continue efforts to advance advocacy priorities to support: aid to vulnerable citizens and non-profits that support them; aid to business; aid to municipalities; stimulative infrastructure; and long-term economic resilience and a new deal for cities.

### **ATTACHMENT**

1. Attachment 1 – Big City COVID-19 Relief Measures