

# BRIEFING

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Item # 5.2.1

Deputy City Manager's Office Briefing to  
Intergovernmental Affairs Committee  
2021 January 21

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## **Business Improvement Area Regulation Advocacy Update**

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### **PURPOSE OF BRIEFING**

To provide an update on Council direction to advocate to the province to review the Business Improvement Area Regulation (BIA), with particular attention paid to the percentages of those who request and those who object to potential changes.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

On 2019 October 21, Council directed Administration to engage the province, seeking the aforementioned changes to the BIA Regulation and report back through the Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) Committee by Q2 2020 (C2019-1340).

Following that direction, Administration identified the Government of Alberta's Municipal Government Act (MGA) Review as the best opportunity to advance these goals. Distinct from the MGA Review that concluded in 2019, this more recent review is focused on changes that will reduce "red tape" and support economic growth and job creation. The existing BIA Regulation (an offshoot of the MGA), and specifically the process for establishment and dissolution, lack transparency and can create confusion for local businesses. Administration believes that changes to the BIA Regulation could create greater certainty for business, making them prime candidates for the MGA Review.

However, like many things, the Government's red-tape-focused MGA Review has been slowed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, Administration also deferred the report back to IGA using the general deferral authority granted by Council at the onset of the pandemic (C2020-0698).

In the meantime, we expect that the governance provisions of the MGA will be the subject of this review in the spring and summer of 2021, and Administration has made a formal request of Municipal Affairs that the BIA Regulation is included in those discussions, flagging the benefits of clarity for business and our shared goal of reducing red tape.

Administration will continue to keep the IGA Committee updated as the MGA Review unfolds, including specific updates on the inclusion of the BIA Regulation in those discussions.