



June 20, 2022

City of Calgary  
Executive Committee of Council; and  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer  
PO Box 2100, Station M  
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

**Attention:** Mayor Gondek (Committee Chair), Carla Male (Chief Financial Officer)

**RE: EC2022-0563 – The City of Calgary Council Innovation Fund Application  
Operation Social Enterprise – Urban Agriculture Pilot at the Armour/Reliance Block**

Mayor Gondek and CFO Male:

The BRCA Board of Directors received a presentation from Fresh Routes and Sunspring Farms on May 16, 2022. The presentation outlined the plans for their City of Calgary Council Innovation Fund application for a pilot project to determine whether a social impact business model could be used to support a vertical farming operation in vacant commercial building spaces in Calgary. The site of the proposed pilot project is in a city-owned garage located at the rear of the Armour/Reliance Block, located along 4<sup>th</sup> street and Meredith Road NE.

While the Bridgeland-Riverside Community Association (BRCA) encourages the City of Calgary Council to consider the feasibility of options to revitalize the Armour/Reliance Block, we wanted to inform you that the proposed Pilot Project and site plans presented to us were received by our Board with enthusiasm. Social enterprise projects, such as the proposed venture between Fresh Routes and Sunspring Farms, could unlock a variety of benefits for communities such as ours. These benefits include employment, food accessibility and resilience, and social equality for residence. Additionally, the Pilot Project and larger scale projects as proposed in Phase 2, could help revitalize a currently underoccupied and historic block in our neighbourhood.

We understand the City of Calgary is currently engaged in a planning exercise related to the future of this site. As the City contemplates the feasibility of improving the Armour/Reliance Block for potential tenants, this is the type of project we encourage City Council and the Administration to support through the Council Innovation Fund; not only to support a project with positive impacts on our community but to investigate the potential a project like this has in revitalizing many commercial spaces in communities across Calgary.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alex MacWilliam'.

Alex MacWilliam  
President of the Bridgeland Riverside Community Association (on behalf of the Board)

P.S. Note that Board Member Lourdes Juan recused herself from voting on matters related to this project as the Founder and Interim CEO of Fresh Routes.