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Please note that your name and comments will be made publicly available in the Council agenda. Your e-mail address will not be included in the public record.

I have read and understand the above statement.

ENDORSEMENT STATEMENT ON ANTI-RACISM, EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The purpose of The City of Calgary is to make life better every day. To fully realize our purpose, we are committed to addressing racism and other forms of discrimination within our programs, policies, and services and eliminating barriers that impact the lives of Indigenous, racialized, and other marginalized people. It is expected that participants will behave respectfully and treat everyone with dignity and respect to allow for conversations free from bias and prejudice.

I have read and understand the above statement.

First name (required) Sean

Last name (required) Donohue

Are you speaking on behalf of a group or Community Association? (required) Yes

What is the group that you represent? Loophole Coffee Bar and a growing number of Downtown West Side businesses

What do you wish to do? (required) Submit a comment

PUBLIC SUBMISSION FORM



How do you wish to attend?

You may bring a support person should you require language or translator services. Do you plan on bringing a support person?

What meeting do you wish to attend or speak to? (required)

Standing Policy Committee on Community Development

Date of meeting (required)

Jul 27, 2022

What agenda item do you wish to comment on? (Refer to the Council or Committee agenda published [here](#).)

(required - max 75 characters)

7.3 Calgary Downtown Association – Change in Boundaries Request, CD2022-079

Are you in favour or opposition of the issue? (required)

In opposition

If you are submitting a comment or wish to bring a presentation or any additional materials to Council, please insert below.

Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

See attachments.

To The City of Calgary Community Development Committee::

It has come to our attention that Council will commence considering the proposed western expansion of the Calgary Downtown Association at tomorrow's (July 26, 2022) Council meeting. We would like to register our opposition to this move and to correct some misconceptions about efforts by the CDA to effect this change.

Bullet points describing our opposition are in a PDF attached to this email.

We are actively collecting signatures from businesses in the area that oppose this idea. The signatures/petition will be made available later under separate cover, as we don't want signers to come under pressure from the CDA. While the CDA claims that they have engaged with business owners on this issue and that they have responded positively, our recent experience canvassing the area is that almost nobody knows anything about it, and they are certainly not aware of the fees involved or their non-optional nature.

The CDA is not disclosing the fees we will pay after annexation, going so far as to leave any info on fees beyond their mere existence off of their web page. Getting any information regarding fees and how they are collected requires navigating committee minutes at the City of Calgary website, so to most, this information is hidden, and willfully so. The CDA's communications director has gone so far as to assert that the City collecting fees on its behalf is tantamount to the CDA not actually collecting fees from business.

Our request for a meeting with the incoming President of the CDA has been met with an offer of a meeting in August, ensuring that any interaction with us would happen after the expansion is effectively a *fait accompli*. Frankly, the tactics of the CDA at every point along the way have been transparently obfuscatory at best and straight up dishonest at worst.

We would be happy to discuss this further with you either in person at the Loophole or by correspondence method of your choice.

Thank you for your time and attention on this file.

Sincerely,
Sean Donohue, Mark Reynolds and Jordan Vannier
Proprietors, Loophole Coffee Bar 1080 8 Ave. SW

Some Points To Consider Re: The Calgary Downtown Association (CDA) Annexing and Collecting Fees from West Downtown

- Our community shares little in character or interest with those now represented by the CDA i.e. The Core/Stephen Avenue
- We can be forgiven scepticism, given the several decade history of failed downtown revitalization schemes the CDA has been a party to
- We are building a community here on the West Side - successfully. We do not require an intermediary between our community and the city. The CDA merely seems to have noticed good things happening in West Downtown and wants to wet its beak
- The CDA is focussed on the central core and Stephen Avenue, and its focus already dissipates on the edges of its current territory – should we believe this situation will improve by enlarging the territory?
- Our 125 is to absorbed into a body of over 2500 – we will never have a proper voice or put someone on the board to represent our interests
- On the subject of the board of the CDA, it is populated by representatives of very large companies (Ernst and Young, Brookfield Properties, ARC Financial, ScotiaBank etc) – not a single ‘small business’ as you might conceive of one
- Equitable access to city services and infrastructure funds should not be dependent on membership in a group that exacts fees beyond the normal taxes
- The CDA is bringing a report to City Council at the end of July, asking Council to make us part of, and pay fees to them. This petition needs to get to them before the report is brought.