

Smith, Theresa L.

From: Farida Alibhai [falibhai29@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 09, 2014 8:11 PM
To: Albrecht, Linda
Subject: Action Plan - Feedback

Not everyone has deep pockets to pay The City each year whenever they need money. Spending by each City Department should be monitored and posted on line for citizens to see how much each department is spending and the breakdown as this is tax payers' money. Expensive lunches, dinners, bridges, special bike paths for a few people, the big blue ugly ring all needs to stop as the spending is out of control. Let Calgarians vote and get their input for each project. Some of the people are on fixed income and cannot afford this tax hike each year. We are NOT the City's ATM machine. I will rethink voting during the next elections.

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Smith, Theresa L.

From: Boris Trnavskis [trnavskis@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, November 07, 2014 12:59 PM
To: Albrecht, Linda
Subject: Action Plan review comments

Council Members, City of Calgary

Please do everything you can to resist the temptation to tax and spend more and more, rather than seriously addressing current spending. As a senior and veteran living on a modest fixed income, I don't think some council members really understand the magnitude of the the property tax increases. I bought my **1,083 sq ft bungalow built in 1978** in the Silver Springs area for an inflated price of **\$429,900 in 2007**. My property taxes in **2007** were **\$1,771**. My **2014 city assessed property value is \$401,000** and my taxes were **\$2,397**. That amounts to a **35.4% increase** in property taxes in just 7 years on a small, 29-year old bungalow which just got 7 years older. That averages out to over **5% per year - far above the rate of inflation**.

Please try to get a **better grip on spending before you increase property taxes even more**. **Zero based budgeting** would be a start. Do we really need to spend millions (and I do mean **millions**) on dedicated bike lanes which take car lanes out of service and increase traffic congestion and delays for the many to satisfy the whims of the few? I have ridden bikes (bicycles and motorcycles) all my life but Calgary is not Holland, Oregon or California. We have real winters in Calgary with lots of snow, ice and very cold temperatures, which make cycling treacherous even in the best conditions, for at least 6 months of the year.

Please allocate serious funding and energy to upgrading/improving Crowchild Trail between the University of Calgary and Marda Loop, particularly crossing the Bow River, to address the congestion and delays. The tens of thousands of citizens and taxpayers who sit, idling in bumper to bumper traffic every day on this stretch of road really deserve better. This will take not only funds but even more importantly, the political will to deal with the NIMBY opposition of the local residents. As politicians elected to do **what is best for all Calgarians**, please focus on the interests of the many hundreds of thousands of Calgarians who are delayed and inconvenienced every year by being stuck in traffic on Crowchild Trail. Further delays in dealing with this issue not only angers your electorate but it also adds to our city's air pollution, because so many Calgarians have to sit there idling, wasting time and fuel, and pump out greenhouse gases. Please remember that realistically we can't solve our urban transportation problems by taking more car lanes out of service for bike lanes or by trying to force more people to take transit or walk. Sometimes we forget that the transit buses depend on the very same roads as Calgary car drivers - and that more lanes of roadway are needed not less.

Finally, if the City Council really wants to do something about the shortage of affordable housing in Calgary so more young people can buy their first home, they have to do everything they can to reduce the cost of residential construction. Please look at all the fees, the regulatory requirements, the lengthy and complex approval processes, the availability of serviced urban land, etc. The more obstacles, drawn out approval processes that delay and add costs the City imposes on the developers of residential housing, the more expensive the final housing product. We sometimes forget that to stay in business, real estate developers like all private sector businesses, have to make a reasonable return on investment and any costs they have to incur will only be passed on to the person buying the homes they build. To make home ownership more affordable for low income earners and first time home buyers, the city has to do what it can to support the private sector's ability to increase the stock of housing - especially low priced housing - not just million dollar apartments and townhouses in upscale, high density developments near downtown. Increasing the supply of housing stock is the answer and not rent controls or artificially constraining the supply of serviced land suitable for residential construction.

As a veteran and retiree living on a modest fixed income (CPP) which increases very little from year to year, I have to constantly evaluate my personal spending. So I only want our city government to do the same. City Council members, as our political representatives, please do everything you can to cut spending rather than increasing property taxes every year. With the tax dollars you do collect, please consider reallocating funding to **what the majority of Calgarians really want their tax dollars spent on** and not what special interests (like the cyclist lobby) or some bureaucrats (city planners) think is best for us. We have to stop trying to "social engineer" Calgary into a European city with all its high densities and city road networks inherited from the days of the horse and buggy.

A sincere thank you for listening. Boris

Boris Trnavskis, Ph.D.

Former infantry officer with the Calgary Highlanders Infantry Regiment

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Smith, Theresa L.

From: Scott Broatch [ScottBroatch@useh.every1.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2014 6:01 PM
To: Albrecht, Linda
Subject: Action Plan

Cut tax not increase tax that's all I have to say. enough is enough.

Get email for your site ---> <http://www.everyone.net>



Smith, Theresa L.

From: Andy [a.doyle-linden@shaw.ca]
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2014 7:00 PM
To: Albrecht, Linda
Subject: Budget

You're behaving like tax-and-spend Liberals. Don't count on my vote next time around.

Andy Doyle-Linden
Sent from my iPad



Smith, Theresa L.

From: Janis Kelman [janis.kelman@edge-tech.ca]
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2014 6:23 PM
To: Albrecht, Linda
Subject: calgary action plan

With regards to the upcoming plan and setting the budget for 2015.

Some items to consider;

1. In order to provide and keep up with services for all citizens of Calgary, we know there will be an increase in taxes.
2. Citizens living in the inner city cannot continue to carry the load of taxes.
3. Developers have to contribute to services for the new communities they are building. They build these new communities and then hand them over to the city, and the citizens that move in, immediately cry for schools, parks bus service and garbage pick up. These citizens have to realize that the cost of their home, while lower than houses closer to the downtown, that if they want these services they will have to pay more in taxes.

Janis Kelman



Albrecht, Linda

From: MARJO LUIDER [mluider@shaw.ca]
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2014 12:02 PM
To: Albrecht, Linda
Subject: comments on the Action Plan

I thought we lived in a democracy. It was my belief that we elected council members to represent all the people of Calgary, not just the rich and business people. Those with low and modest incomes pay taxes too, and our concerns should be reflected as well. There are a lot of good points in your plan, such as making sure our first responders are looked after. Also looking after the safety of everyone with snow removal, and flood prevention measures are important. Do we really need expensive signs, recreation centers, and technology advancements when money is so tight? Are they so important that some will lose their homes to pay for the extras?

As for the part where you talk about upgrading parks, that is a laugh. You are destroying one of the most beautiful parks in all of Calgary--Bowmont Park. It should have been left an environmental park. Now there are fences everywhere, and so many spots have been dug up, or are about to be dug up. So many native shrubs and trees are being removed for this project. With all the fences going up, I wonder if a lot of the seniors who walk there will no longer have access. Some of us are getting to old to climb steep hills to go around those fences.

One of the parts talked about affordable housing. If you keep hiking the property taxes you impact affordability. High property taxes will impact anyone who owns or rents a home or an apartment.

Please reconsider your proposed property tax hikes of 4 - 6%. Perhaps 1 - 2% would be more reasonable. The increases over the last few years have already put a burden on many. Remember too the higher the initial amount is, the larger will be the end result when you multiply it by the increase percentage.

Thank you for letting up voice our opinions.

A worried senior home owner.

P. S. I think the city did a great job helping to clean up all the branches from the September storm.

THE CITY OF CALGARY
CITY CLERKS

2014 NOV 10 PM 3:31

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Albrecht, Linda

From: Traci Morden [tracionline@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 10, 2014 9:38 PM
To: Albrecht, Linda
Subject: City resident suggestions for action plan

I have two issues that I hope can be brought forth for consideration. One issue is with our neighbourhood designation. Our community is called North Glenmore, and it is unique because it is split into 2 separate neighbourhoods by the passage of Glenmore Trail - one half of our community is to the south of Glenmore Trail (next to Lakeview), and the other half is to the north of Glenmore Trail (next to Altadore). It becomes very confusing to explain to people where we live because there are effectively two North Glenmore communities. My wish would be that one half could be called South Glenmore and that the other half be called North Glenmore. Or another idea is for us to simply be made part of Altadore (as we are located between Altadore and Glenmore Trail) and that the other half of North Glenmore could keep their name or become part of Lakeview. Although North Glenmore has a community centre, it's located on the Lakeview side, and with traffic being what it is we have opted to make ourselves part of South Calgary's community instead. In effect we either feel we do not have an identity, or we opt to become part of Altadore and South Calgary as they are closer and more accessible.

I will now focus on our side of North Glenmore (North of Glenmore Trail and between Glenmore Trail and Altadore - see what I mean about confusing?;) and an area of need for our community. Within our portion of North Glenmore we lack a central and safe area for a public playground. At this time we have 3 playgrounds and each one does not draw people from the community because of its location. One playground is at the farthest reaches of our community next to Glenmore Trail at St James school. The second is right next to a busy bus loop off 54th and Crowchild Trail. The third is in a field bordered by two high schools. It's no surprise that we moved our young family into this community three years ago and have yet to meet many other families because our community does not have a common meeting place.

Within our neighbourhood, however, there is one central and safe place for families - the Glenmore Aquatic Centre. With day camps all summer and swim lessons all winter, this location draws families from within our community and beyond on a daily basis and helps to bring people together. If a small playground were erected near this pool, it would instantly be well utilized and would effectively create community for us all.

When Brian Pincott came to my door while campaigning, he mentioned that our community would be getting new tennis courts in the summer of 2014. That did not happen, and as we can assume, much of the multimillion dollar Glenmore Park redevelopment will not get underway for years. In fact, there is a 10-15 year estimate for that project. That is why parents are asking that a small playground at least be set up now in our community while our children are still children. We should not have to bike over to Altadore in order to meet families. I can assure you that the other three locations I mentioned above are never frequented by families (outside of school hours) but that the Glenmore pool area would be.

It's clear that our sprawling city has many family needs in the suburbs. But our community of North Glenmore, particularly in our section next to Altadore, is undergoing a redevelopment and bringing in young families. We deserve equal recognition in providing amenities and community-building initiatives. A request for a playground near a small recreation centre is small but would have an immediate and positive impact on our community. I'm hoping that you can bring this information to the attention of stakeholders and address the needs of our community of growing young families.

Thank you for your time,

Traci and Mike Morden

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2014 NOV 12 AM 8:12
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Nov. 12, 2014

RECEIVED

2014 NOV 12 AM 8:01

THE CITY OF CALGARY
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Regarding the City of Calgary Action Plan for 2014

It's very polite for council to invite the citizens of Calgary for some feedback on the proposed Action Plan but we all know that, like all the previous requests for citizen input it is nothing but a hollow charade. The smugness and arrogance of council ensures that regardless of what the taxpayers say or ask for they get what council has already determined. The crafty embezzling of the provinces gift of 50 million dollars to the City in 2013 bears witness to this fact. There are numerous other examples, bike lanes, bridges, and green carts to name but a few. Let's face it the city council and its 15,000 employees exist not to serve the citizens but rather to serve no one else but themselves. And as the mayor so eloquently put it (before he was schooled in the ways of city hall) the citizens are indeed just the ATMs in this grand cartoon.

The Plan itself reads like some child's naive wish for a perfect city. No mention is made of third party audits, measured monetary efficiencies or other nasty realities that may rear their head to taint on this vision of ponies and rainbows. The only thing that is lacking that a child may introduce is some imagination. No, it's the same unaccountable tax and spend recipe that council has adhered to for years. Increase taxes, bloat the bureaucracy and continue down the same merry path to retirement. The cost for this vision of joy? Well if I'm reading page 25 correctly....it's a total of 75\$ per month by 2018. Based on an unrealistically low home value assessment of \$430,000 that's a whopping \$900 increase in fees in just four years.

For what it's worth, here are some imaginative suggestions that Council will without a doubt seriously consider:

- Privatize Enmax. Stop the partying and make them accountable while maintaining a majority share and possibly profiting. In fact why don't you really show some initiative and courage and privatize all road maintenance and construction, it really shouldn't take a year to add a couple of turn lanes to an intersection (Heritage and 14th SW). That's a lot of time to be leaning on a shovel.
- Say No to luxury items like skate parks and bike paths. Few people will miss them. Restore the roadway for cars and stop thinking that bikes in Calgary will ever be used for anything but recreation. This isn't San Francisco. Saying no to every little request that council chooses to accommodate will also alleviate the tremendous stress they must feel when expanding their bureaucracies.

- Actually raise rates. That's right make users pay for the service that they receive. It may take some courage to explain that \$900/year will buy a lot of golf and hockey time but I'm sure that the taxpayer can be made to understand this.
- How about really charging to ride the LRT. There's a reason it's called "the Free Train". One of the only points in this plan that shows any courage is the suggestion to actually introduce "electronic payment " for the LRT. I don't know what's wrong with turnstiles like every other city uses but when council can't even raise rates at LRT parking stalls I seriously doubt that any payment for the LRT will ever materialize. I hope to be wrong on this one.
- Why not outsource the planning of interchanges. The city engineers that brought us such gems as Crowchild Tr. to Deerfoot Tr. should be retired now so they won't mind. Better yet how about building more than a couple. I know it may be amazing to council but Calgarians actually like to drive and regardless of what the city does they stubbornly continue to do so, particularly in the winter. So why doesn't council accommodate them, or is that be too much to ask for a "corporation " with a 3.5 billion dollar budget?
- Speaking of roads I think that the city should charge the developer when they block roadways. I know that that there is a nominal charge for this but when a skyscraper is being built and lanes are closed for years at a time I feel that the developer should pay the taxpayer for the time that's wasted sitting in traffic. A lot, how about \$100,000 per month. That might add up to a couple of million dollars that you could add to the budget, small potatoes for council but for the rest of us it seems like a lot. Sort of like the 7 million spent on the recent bike path "trial".
- You know that some of the cost of bike path maintenance could be defrayed if the city sold licenses for bikes. They could easy make vendor sell "licenses" for every bicycle they sold. Numbered stickers that the buyer could record. If the bike was stolen and it may aide in its recovery. No cost to the city and a bit of revenue but such a minor detail for the big show that it's laughable.

What's really laughable isn't the lack of consideration letters and suggestions like this receive from council. That's sad. No the real joke is the great care that council must take in following their predetermined agenda while pretending to listen to the stakeholders and the bill payers.

You're welcome.

Frank Raffin

Smith, Theresa L.

From: Mary Salvani [marysalvani@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 09, 2014 3:58 PM
To: Albrecht, Linda
Subject: Action Plan Ideas and suggestions

To Councillor Druh Farrell, Mayor Nenshi, Councillor Gian-Carlo Carra, Councillor Ray Jones, Councillor Dianne Colley-Urhart, and other city councillors:

Below are some of my ideas regarding the city's action plan.

Calgary Transit

Adopt Fair Fare Calgary's sliding scale based on transit users income. If you do adopt it more Calgarians with limited incomes can afford to ride Calgary Transit vehicles. I think if more people can afford to ride it then the cost of running will be less of a burden on everyone since we all would be sharing the cost of operating it. I think those who are in the higher earning income bracket should be paying more for Calgary Transit service.

Make sure all train stations are accessible to people with disabilities. Ask for input from Calgarians with disabilities as to how Calgary Transit can become more accessible. For example just because Rundle Station has an elevator in it, doesn't make the station accessible to people like me with a walker. The ramp leading in and out of the station are too steep for me to safely walk on. The emergency exit/ smaller ramp leads to no where except the train tracks which actually poses a danger in it's self since I can't climb over the barricades to get out of the train's way. I think if you make things accessible for the disabled you actually make them accessible for all Calgarians. If every public building, and public vehicle is accessible the first time you build it then you don't need to spend money to renovate to make it accessible in the future. It would also save the city more money if you make things accessible now then if you wait for baby boomers to become seniors before you renovate anything.

Hire people with disabilities to be a part of Access Calgary's customer service, and dispatch team. Then maybe they can ensure the needs of Calgarians with disabilities are met with care, understanding, and compassion. Maybe they can help Calgarians with disabilities overcome the barriers they have placed upon them when it comes to accessing transportation. Maybe they would also be able to save the city money in the long run since they would know what is needed to make transportation accessible for people with disabilities. Encourage Access Calgary staff to treat people with disabilities as human beings rather than numbers. Encourage Access Calgary staff to plan out their drivers routes better so that they are more cost efficient, and fuel efficient (for example if one client wants to be at Sunridge Mall by 9:30 am and one wants to be at Marlborough mall by 9:15 am, and they are both coming from Copperfield- put them on the same vehicle since they are going in the same direction.) Don't put a person who is going from Copperfield to Canada Olympic park in that vehicle with them instead put that person on another vehicle that is going from their to the NW. This would save Access Calgary money and also save them from spending on fuel as well.

Affordable Housing

Legalize secondary suites. I think if you do this then there more affordable homes for people to rent. I think this would also help the city save money since their wouldn't be as much of a need to build new affordable housing buildings. I think if the secondary suites are legalized it would encourage landlords to make sure their property is safe for tenants to live in.

If there are safe buildings that are empty in the city, renovate and make them into condos or apartment buildings for people with low incomes. Make sure there are at least 10 units in each building that are wheelchair accessible for Calgarians with disabilities. Build affordable homes for people to live in close to Calgary transit train, and bus stops, grocery stores, doctors offices etc..

Encourage landlords to keep the rent down to a minimum. If that means adding rent control city wide please do this so more people can afford to have a safe place to live in our city.

I think if we make sure people have affordable homes to live in that are safe and accessible to them, as a city we can save money in the long run, reduce the need for people to access emergency shelters etc... I think if do our jobs right we can follow Medicine's Hat lead in eliminating poverty earlier then the city and the province 10 year plan predicts.

Provide incentives to landlords who do provide safe housing and affordable housing to Calgarians. Maybe if you do this more landlords would be willing to pay their taxes on time to the city of Calgary.

Road services

Shovel the snow and add sand/ salt on the road as soon as the snow falls on all major roads, and shovel/ salt/ sand residential roads sooner. If you do this then maybe the city can save money since there won't be as many private vehicles, and city vehicles that would require towing due to being stuck or being involved in a weather related accident.

Fee Assistance, No Cost Spay/ Neuter, and other programs for people with low incomes:

My message regarding this topic is quite simple. As a person with a disability and a low income Calgarian I say cut the red tape. To see what I mean please view the City of Calgary Cut The Red Tape Highlight video on YouTube below.

<http://youtu.be/74rE7DvFN2o>

Thanks for letting me voice my ideas and suggestions as to how this city can become more accessible and affordable for all Calgarians!

From:

Mary Salvani

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Smith, Theresa L.

From: Ron sammel [rsammel@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2014 10:28 AM
To: Albrecht, Linda
Subject: Action plan

While I can understand the need for additional tax money, there also has to be some good old horse sense involved. Unfortunately you cannot be all things to all people, as a senior there was a time when you just had to do with a little less and guess what we all survived. It seems that everyone today has to have it all, taxes are really getting out of hand if you factor in all the additional hidden taxes. Calgary is just as much my home as anyone else, and i resent being taxed to distraction. Why should I have to move somewhere else due to lack of affordability. Unfortunately Calgary is not the pleasant city it used to be, and council has to bear some responsibility for the city we are becoming. If taxes are not reined in soon the Calgary we all love will disappear and we will all be the poorer for it. Keep taxes reasonable very few individuals are getting salary increases as large as your yearly tax increases. I guess you don't have to be a rocket scientist to see what the results will eventually be. Some where you gotta get a grip before it becomes a city only for that segment of society that can afford to live here.

