

CITY OF CALGARY
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CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

SUPPORT FOR LAP by Teri Posyniak/June 20, '23

MY HUSBAND AND I HAVE LIVED IN KELVIN GROVE IN CKE, THE CHINOOK PARK/KELVIN GROVE/EAGLE RIDGE COMMUNITY FOR ALMOST 40 YEARS. OUR CHILDREN GREW UP HERE AND WENT TO CHINOOK PARK SCHOOL AND LATER, HENRY WISEWOOD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL. IT CONTINUES TO BE A WONDERFUL PLACE FOR FAMILIES AND NOW OUR GRANDCHILDREN ENJOY HANGING OUT HERE WITH US.

HOWEVER, CKE IS A COMMUNITY IN TRANSITION. DECADES AGO IT WAS A COMMUNITY TEEMING WITH YOUNG CHILDREN AND A GROWING SCHOOL POPULATION. THE YOUNGER POPULATION IS SHRINKING AND CHINOOK PARK SCHOOL, JUST LIKE THE SOON-TO-BE-TAKEN-DOWN KINGSLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DOWN THE ROAD, IS IN DANGER OF CLOSING ITS DOORS DUE TO A REAL LACK OF YOUNGER FAMILIES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD. HIGH PRICES FOR SINGLE FAMILY HOMES ON SPACIOUS LOTS SERVE AS A BARRIER TO YOUNG FAMILIES TRYING TO MOVE INTO OUR AREA. I OFTEN HEAR FROM MY FRIENDS IN CKE COMPLAIN THAT THEIR CHILDREN CANNOT AFFORD TO LIVE HERE OR EVEN CLOSE TO THEM. CONVERSELY, AS A SENIOR WHO MAY AT SOME POINT NEED TO DOWNSIZE TO A MORE ACCESSIBLE HOUSING OPTION, I WOULD BE FORCED TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE COMMUNITY AS WELL.

I FULLY SUPPORT THE LOCAL AREA PLAN AND ITS THOUGHTFUL DIVERSIFICATION AND DENSIFICATION OF OUR COMMUNITY WHICH I BELIEVE WOULD HELP NEW FAMILIES FIND MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CHOICES IN OUR AREA, RESULTING IN A MORE VIBRANT COMMUNITY WHERE SCHOOLS COULD ATTRACT MORE CHILDREN AND STAY OPEN, WHERE THE POPULATION COULD SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN SMALL BUSINESSES CLOSE BY.

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE HAS BEEN A CAMPAIGN OF FEAR AND DISINFORMATION IN AN EFFORT TO BLOCK THE CITY'S PROGRESSIVE PLAN. A SLANTED AND POORLY DISTRIBUTED SURVEY IS BEING OFFERED AS PROOF THAT OUR COMMUNITY OPPOSES THE LAP, EVEN THOUGH THIS SURVEY ~~ONLY~~ WAS RESPONDED TO BY 14% OF CKE RESIDENTS AND ONLY INCLUDES A ^{MERELY} MINISCULE FRACTION OF APARTMENT/CONDO DWELLERS. SIMILARLY, I WAS HORRIFIED TO LEARN THAT RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS – A MEASURE FROM THE NOT-SO-DISTANT PAST USED TO LITERALLY RESTRICT CERTAIN RACES AND

CLASSES FROM SETTLING IN AFFLUENT COMMUNITIES. RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS ARE BEING HAILED BY THIS LOUD MINORITY AS THE WAY TO DISMANTLE THE LAP AND ITS GOALS. THE RESTRICTIVE COVENANT ON MY PROPERTY DATES BACK TO 1959. I ONLY RECENTLY CONFIRMED IT EXISTED AND NOW, WHEN I ASK THE ANTI-LAP GROUP IF THEY'RE LUMPING ALL OF US WITH PRE-EXISTING RCs INTO THEIR SUPPORT NUMBERS, I CAN'T GET A STRAIGHT ANSWER. HOW COULD ANY PERSON EVER SUPPORT THE DRACONIAN RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS AS A WAY TO CIRCUMVENT THE LAP IS BOTH SHOCKING AND DISTURBING??

HISTORICALLY, SMALL VOCAL GROUPS WITHIN CKE HAVE STRIDENTLY OPPOSED ALMOST ANY PROGRESSIVE CHANGES IN OUR COMMUNITY SUCH AS PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MEASURES, A BICYCLE PATH THROUGH EAGLE RIDGE, FLIGHT PATHS, MODIFICATION TO TRAFFIC PATTERNS DESIGNED TO DISCOURAGE CUT-THROUGH TRAFFIC, MEASURES TO ENABLE PATIENTS, MEDICAL STAFF AND VISITORS TO THE ROCKYVIEW HOSPITAL TO REASONABLY EXIT ONTO 14TH STREET DURING SHIFT CHANGES, AND MORE RECENTLY THE SWBRT. FORTUNATELY, THEY MOSTLY FAIL, BUT IN LAUNCHING THESE BIG FIGHTS, THEY PIT NEIGHBOUR AGAINST NEIGHBOUR, CREATING DIVISIONS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY. I DEEPLY RESENT THIS.

NOT MOVING FORWARD WITH THE LAP WOULD SIMPLY STRANGLE AND STAGNATE OUR COMMUNITY, INTERFERING WITH ITS ABILITY TO PROVIDE THE ACTIVITIES AND INTERACTIONS WHICH HAVE GIVEN RISE TO MANY LIFETIME FAMILY FRIENDSHIPS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING OUR COMMUNITY GROW AND DIVERSIFY, BOTH CULTURALLY AND ECONOMICALLY. I REALIZE THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN SLOWLY OVER TIME AND WITH GREAT CONSULTATION BUT AT LEAST WE HAVE A CHANCE TO EMBRACE A COMPREHENSIVE AND INCLUSIVE VISION FOR THE FUTURE. LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY.

THANK YOU.