urban calgary

September 9, 2024

BIA Liaison Office, The City of Calgary Meghan Mahoney, Business Strategist, Partnerships Jordan Lamey, Coordinator, Business Improvement Areas

Re: Proposed expansion and elimination of separate 1<sup>st</sup> Street SW assessment.

- 1) The Victoria Park BIA fully endorses the City of Calgary removing 1<sup>st</sup> Street SW between 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue as a separate assessment area from the rest of the Victoria Park BIA.
- 2) As per the attached diagram, the Victoria Park BIA would like to extend its boundaries to include the businesses on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues between 1<sup>st</sup> Street SW and 1<sup>st</sup> Street SE. We have always treated these businesses "as if" they were part of the BIA and would like the ability to have them formally participate as full rate-paying members.

Sincerely,

David Lour

David Low Executive Director Victoria Park Business Improvement Area

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Geoff Allan Board Chairperson

# Victoria Park Business Improvement Area Expansion Timeline

MAY 22, 2024	EXPANSION PACKAGES MAILED Mailed out expansion packages to businesses in proposed expansion area (expansion package attached to document).
MAY 23, 2024	EXPANSION PACKAGES HAND DELIVERED Expansion packages hand delivered to businesses in expansion area (expansion drop-off schedule attached to this document).
JUNE 4 + 10, 2024	INFORMATIONAL DROP-IN Informational drop-in sessions held at Bottlescrew Bills. Sessions held from 11 am - 1 pm & 3 pm - 6 pm on both days.
JUNE 13, 2024	INFORMATIONAL DROP-IN Informational drop-in sessions held at KAKS. Session held from 3 pm - 6 pm
VARIOUS	OTHER COMMUNICATIONS MADE Sent an email and made various posts for social media encouraging people to visit our open houses.

### VICTORIA PARK

## 2024 BIA Information

# VICTORIA PARK

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### Victoria Park Business Improvement Area

A Business Improvement Area (BIA) is a group of businesses within a defined geographic area that work together on local improvements. A Canadian invention, the formation of BIAs began in 1970 in Toronto to tackle common issues facing businesses. The formation of a BIA is initiated by businesses, not the municipality.



### **Quick Facts About Victoria Park**

- We're the second-oldest community in Calgary, first established in the 1880s as the East Ward.
- We have a unique background and historical architecture.
- We are the most diverse BIA in the city in terms of land uses.
- We are one of the fastest growing communities in the city.
- We have a youthful residential population, with approximately 44% of all residents falling between the ages of 25-34.
- We are part of the Culture and Entertainment District and benefit from being the closest BIA to the Stampede, BMO, and the future Event Centre.

www.victoriapark.org



Established under the Municipal Government Act of Alberta, BIAs are funded by an annual tax collected from the area's businesses by the city and transferred to the BIA. Membership is automatic for businesses falling within a BIA boundary.

While The City of Calgary collects on behalf of the BIAs, The City does not fund BIAs; they are funded solely by the annual tax collected from member businesses.

Formed in 1997, the Victoria Park BIA represents more than 350 businesses in the Beltline community of Victoria Park. The BIA works to promote and improve the area and is an advocate for important community issues.



01

2024



### WHAT DOES THE VICTORIA PARK BIA DO?

Our mission is to advocate for change and development to create a high-quality urban environment for all businesses in Victoria Park.

Our mandate as defined by the Municipal Government Act includes:

- Improve, beautify and maintain property in the area.
- Redevelop underutilized and vacant areas.
- Maintain historical character and assets.
- Promote Victoria Park as a business and shopping area.

For more information about Calgary BIAs, visit www.calgary.ca/for-business/improvement-areas.html



www.victoriapark.org

02

2024

## The Victoria Park BIA Focus

### **Urban Planning & Development**

The Victoria Park BIA participates in important urban planning and development initiatives that support the growth of Victoria Park. This includes:

- The review of development permit applications.
- Participation in Green Line impact management and communication.
- Assist member businesses with land use and planning matters.
- Participation in City-led planning exercises, e.g. the Beltline Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) and Downtown Strategy.



### **Public Safety & Social Issues**

- The Victoria Park BIA advocates for community safety to ensure Victoria Park remains a safe place to live, shop, and explore. Initiatives include:
  - Clean to the Core (street maintenance) program alongside the five Centre City BIAs.
  - Alpha House's ambassador program and Engaging Vulnerable Persons workshops.
  - Working with the Calgary Police Service and Bylaw Services to identify issues.

### Special Events & Activations

- Unique events and attractions are a key part of Victoria Park's appeal. The Victoria Park BIA has a long history of producing activations and participating in other festivals (e.g. Beakerhead, Glow, Chinook Blast).
- In 2023, the BIA created its own festival, Night Light!
  - Night Light is a three-night event featuring projection-mapped architecture, interactive installations, and a diverse collection of local and international artworks.
  - Night Light is a family-friendly, free event suitable for all ages.
  - Night Light 2023 engaged with an estimated 15,000-18,000 people.
  - For 2024, we are looking to expand opportunities for businesses to participate – please get in touch for more information <u>nightlight@victoriapark.org</u>.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2024

# **The Victoria Park BIA Focus**

### **Marketing & Communications**

The Victoria Park BIA works to be a voice for the area. Through our channels, we promote events, businesses, and community news.



### Newsletter

The VicParkYYC newsletter is an email publication to businesses and those who have subscribed. To subscribe to the VicParkYYC newsletter, visit www.victoriapark.org/newsletter

### Website

www.victoriapark.org features tailored listings for each business within the BIA.

The website is an important source for current and historical information about our BIA and the Victoria Park neighbourhood.

### Social Media

We have an informative and engaging suite of social media channels with a combined audience of close to 20k. We pride ourselves on working directly with businesses to create and promote unique content.

### Let's Work Together!

Elevate your business with the Victoria Park BIA! We're here to help you gain exposure through our marketing and communications channels. Tag us on social media or reach out to us to see how we can showcase your business to the

### @VicParkYYC #VicParkYYC



2024

# Meet the Team!

### David Low, Executive Director

Passionate and performance-orientated Executive Director with a robust 17-year tenure at the Victoria Park Business Improvement Area, contributing to the vibrant growth and success of the community. David has demonstrated mastery in non-profit organization management with expertise in business development, event planning and production, project management, land use, planning policy and development, and public safety and social issues.



David enjoys experimenting with lights and creating large-scale public gestures that are free for everyone. He has a passion for bringing light into people's lives and positively impacting his community. Incorporating this into his work, he created Night Light, Victoria Park's own Light Festival!



### Avery Cooper, Marketing & Communications Manager



Avery's journey at Victoria Park BIA, evolving from an intern to the Marketing and Communications Manager, highlights her commitment to personal development and community engagement. Over her brief time at the BIA, Avery has demonstrated a work ethic capable of growing Victoria Park's digital presence and marketing Victoria Park as a desirable and beautiful neighbourhood. Working on Night Light has been a passion project for her, as she strives to create fun and interactive art events that continue to showcase Victoria Park's culture and vibrancy.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2024

# Board of Directors

All BIAs are not-for-profit organizations governed by a volunteer board of directors elected from their respective memberships. The Victoria Park BIA's Board of Directors is composed of local business representatives who have a vested interest in Victoria Park. Meeting monthly, they discuss general operations and address issues affecting our vibrant area.

### 2024 Victoria Park BIA Board Members

- Geoff Allen, Chair -Bottlescrew Bill's
- Dustin Pool, Vice Chair Eclipse Sustainability
- Marie Chiem, Treasurer Leno Fine Jewellery
- Thomas Debicki, Secretary Debicki Speta Design
- Jeff Beddoes, Director –St. James Corner
- Grant Howard, Director The Howard Group Inc.
- Sandy Macleod, Director Freedom Chiropractic
- Justin Woo, Director BudBar
- Scott Roberts, Director Elbow River Casino
- Jessica Lapuz, Director Outlash
- Jordan Geske, Associate Member The Business Centre and Innovate Media

### Get in Contact With the Vic Park BIA:

Phone: 403-650-4757 Email: communications@victoriapark.org

For more information about BIAs in Calgary, visit: www.calgary.ca/for-business/bias-in-<u>calgary</u>

For information about Night Light please reach out to: nightlight@victoriapark.org







2024

### WHO TO CALL

### Report to the City of Calgary: 311

The City of Calgary has a comprehensive 311 reporting program that covers a range of City services. Download the 311 App to your mobile device to track the status of reports or dial 3-1-1.

#### **Emergency Services: 911**

To report medical emergencies or a life threatening situation, dial 9-1-1.

### Health Link: 211

Health Link conveniently provides a registered nurse 24/7 to ask questions, assess symptoms, and determine actions for best care.

#### HELP Team: 403-998-7388

The Downtown Outreach Addictions Partnership (DOAP) Team provides support to unhoused people in intoxicated distress.

#### Needle Response Team: 403-796-5334

The Needle Response Team responds to calls from business/ community members to help safely dispose of needles and needle debris.

### Ambassador Team: 587-834-1785

Responds to calls from businesses Victoria Park needing support with incidences related to homelessness/substance use.

### Ward 8 Councillor, Courtney Walcott

To contact Ward 8 Councillor, Courtney Walcott, email: ward8@calgary.ca.

### **Beltline Neighbourhood Association**

To address matters pertaining to the Beltline Communities of Victoria Park and Connaught, contact the Beltline Neighbourhoods Association by emailing: info@beltlineyyc.ca.

### **City of Calgary Business Improvement Areas**

For more information about BIA's, visit: www.calgary.ca/for-business/biasin-calgary.html

### Victoria Park BIA: 403-650-4757

The BIA welcomes your questions and inquiries. Please email us at: communications@victoriapark.org.







2024

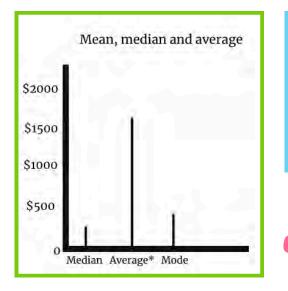
### **Quick Answers** How much does it cost to be a part of the BIA?

The tax assessment is based on the value of your business premises × BIA tax rate. Compared to other BIAs, the Victoria Park BIA has maintained some of the lowest levy rates in the city.

### Sample assessment:

Assessed Property Value: \$16,000 BIA tax rate: 1.6% Annual payment = \$256

The amount is collected on behalf of the BIA by the City of Calgary. Please see here for a tax comparison of the BIAs in Calgary: https://www.calgary.ca/for-business/taxes/bia-tax-rates.html



The average is not representative of what most businesses pay due to the extreme deviation between business assessments. Businesses by vary size, and tax is applied accordingly. The median and mode are more accurate representations of what businesses typically are assessed at.





www.victoriapark.org



01

2024

### **Quick Answers** How does the Victoria Park BIA utilize their funds?

As outlined under our mandate, the annual tax collected from BIA members directly funds our operations. The BIA has a full time executive director, a full time marketing and communications manager, and numerous contract and part time positions working out of the BIA office located at 1126 3rd Street SE.

### How is the budget determined?

The Victoria Park BIA works with its members to set priorities which are reflected in an annual budget submitted to and approved by City Council. The budget determines the annual BIA tax collected from all businesses within the BIA's boundary, which is then transferred back in full to the BIA. This applies to all BIAs in Calgary. Please see here for BIA budget comparison: https://www.calgary.ca/for-business/bia-funding.html

### Is membership in the Victoria Park BIA automatic if my business is included in the modified boundary?

Yes, BIA membership is automatic for businesses falling within the Victoria Park BIA boundaries.

# Are there any additional costs or fees associated with being a part of the BIA?

Besides the annual tax, no additional costs or fees are associated with being a part of the BIA. The BIA is funded solely by the tax collected from member businesses.

# How does being a part of the BIA impact my business?

Your business is part of a vibrant community of over 350 businesses in Victoria Park! The BIA provides various services to its member businesses, from event support to marketing.

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED** 

#### 2024

### **Quick Answers**

# How are decisions made within the BIA?

The Victoria Park BIA is governed by a board of directors composed of elected members representing businesses within the area.

### How can I get involved with the BIA's activities and decision-making processes?

You can join the board and participate in committees as a business member.

You can also volunteer, and the board and staff are always open to having conversations. These platforms allow you to contribute ideas and feedback, thereby influencing the direction and initiatives of the BIA.

# Who can I contact for further assistance or questions?

Let's have a chat! Contact our BIA staff at <u>communications@victoriapark.org</u> to ask further questions or set up a meeting.



03

Page 14 of 25



VictoriaPark.org	<b>KAK's Podcast Bai</b>	Bottlescrew Bills	<b>DTOD-L</b> earn more about the prop	
#vicparkyyc	KAK'S Podcast Bar Sessions: 1006 1 St SE, Calgary June 13th: 3 PM - 6 PM	Bottlescrew Bills Sessions: 140 10 Ave SW, Calgary June 4th: 11 AM - 1 PM & 3 PM - June 10th: 11 AM - 1 PM & 3 PM -	Drop-In Opgn Houses Learn more about the proposed boundary changes and what it means for your business	YOU'RE INVITED TO VICTORIA PARK BI
VICTORIA PAR	<b>SE, Calgary</b> PM - 6 PM	<b>140 10 Ave SW, Calgary</b> June 4th: 11 AM - 1 PM & 3 PM - 6 PM June 10th: 11 AM - 1 PM & 3 PM - 6 PM	<b>OUSCES</b> at it means for your business	A'S HE

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30 August 2024

#### RE: Victoria Park Business Improvement Area Proposed Change in Boundaries

Dear Business Owner:

This letter is to inform you that The City of Calgary has received a request from the Victoria Park Business Improvement Area (BIA) to change its boundaries. Your business is located within the proposed expanded boundaries. Attached is a map that identifies the current and proposed expanded boundaries. If this request is passed at Council on October 8, 2024, it will result in an annual BIA tax being applied to your business starting in 2025. In 2024, the average BIA tax paid in the Victoria Park BIA was approximately \$1,523 per year, and the median was approximately \$551 per year. Please see the back of this letter for more information on how the BIA tax is calculated.

BIAs are established through a community-led process where businesses within a specific geographic area (the boundaries) pay an additional tax. The tax is collected to promote the BIA as a business or shopping area, and improve, beautify, and maintain property and public parking in the BIA.

The annual BIA tax is collected from all businesses within the BIA boundaries by The City of Calgary and is transferred in full back to the BIA. The BIA operates as a non-profit organization and works with its business members to set priorities that are reflected in an annual budget approved by City Council.

**Requests from a BIA to change its boundaries must be approved by City Council.** As outlined in the *Business Improvement Area Regulation* (AR 93/2016) section 8, before City Council decides on the request to change a BIA's boundaries, business owners within the BIA's current and proposed boundaries must be given the opportunity to make representations to City Council. **The opportunity to do this is scheduled for:** 

**Date and time:** October 8, 2024 commencing at 9:30 a.m. **Location:** Council Chamber, Calgary Municipal Building, 800 Macleod Tr. S.E.

For information on how to submit written comments to City Council or participate (in person or remotely) in the meeting, please visit www.calgary.ca/agendaminutes and click, "Learn how to participate in Council or Committee meetings".

#### Have questions? Please don't hesitate to reach out:

Victoria Park BIA David Low, Executive Director 403-650-5068 David.low@victoriapark.org Web: www.victoriapark.org The City of Calgary, Major Partners Meghan Mahoney, BIA Strategist 403-988-3634 Meghan.Mahoney@calgary.ca Web: www.calgary.ca/BIA

Sincerely,

Ou

Lori Kerr, Manager Major Partners, Partnerships Community Services

Attachment: Map of the Proposed Victoria Park BIA Change in Boundaries cc: Councillor Walcott, Ward 8

#### How is a Business Improvement Area bill calculated?

The City of Calgary assesses business premises each year for Business Improvement Area (BIA) taxation purposes. Your business assessment reflects **the typical net annual rental value of your premises** based on the July 1 valuation date and provides the basis for your next year's BIA tax bill.

#### BIA tax rate calculation:

BIA = BIA's annual approved budget ÷ Total business assessment within the BIA tax rate

#### BIA tax bill calculation:

BIA = Assessed value of your business premises **x** BIA tax rate tax bill

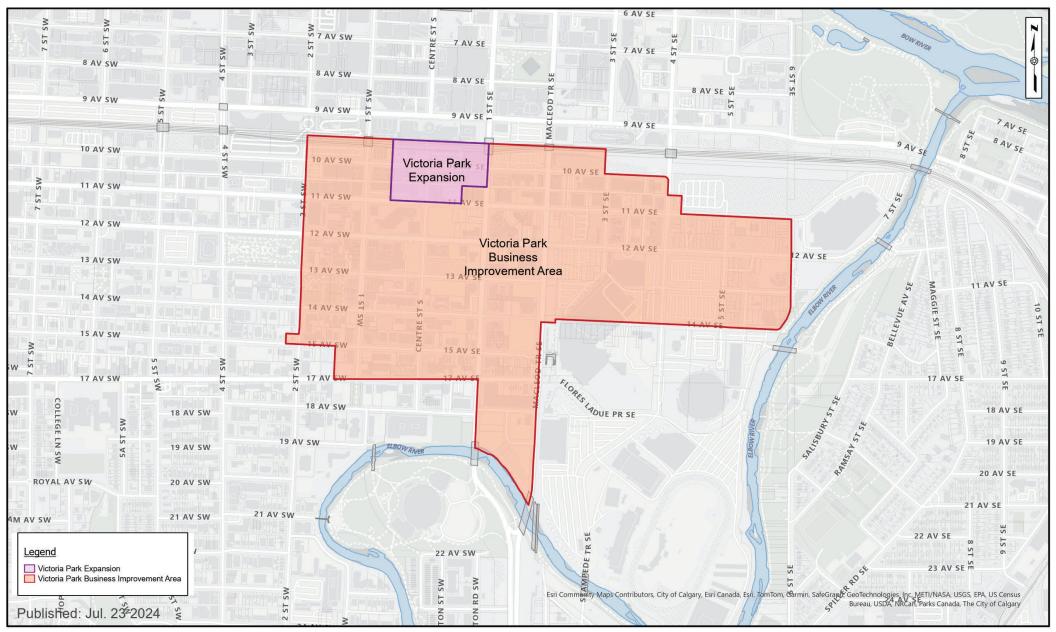
\*BIA tax is based on the calendar year January 1 to December 31.

For more information on BIAs in Calgary, please visit www.calgary.ca/BIA or contact The City of Calgary, Major Partners division through Meghan Mahoney at <u>Meghan.Mahoney@calgary.ca</u>

C2024-0570 Attachment 4



#### Map of the Proposed Changes to the Victoria Park Business Improvement Area



30 August 2024

#### RE: Victoria Park Business Improvement Area Proposed Change in Boundaries

Dear Business Owner:

This letter is to inform you that The City of Calgary has received a request from the Victoria Park Business Improvement Area (BIA) to change (expand) its boundaries. Attached is a map that identifies the current and proposed expanded boundaries. Your business is located within the current Victoria Park BIA boundaries.

Your business is also included in the *First Street Improvement Area*, a two-block area within the current BIA boundaries on 1<sup>st</sup> street SW between 12<sup>th</sup> avenue and 14<sup>th</sup> avenue SW. The *First Street Improvement Area* was approved by Council in 2002 and permitted a varied tax rate in this area for enhanced maintenance due to the nature of businesses at the time being a concentration of nightclubs and bars.

In addition to the change in boundaries request, the Victoria Park BIA has requested that The City remove this varied tax rate so that a consistent tax rate is applied across the BIA starting in 2025. In recent years, the varied tax rate has been nominal so its removal will not impact your BIA taxes in a significant way.

BIAs are established through a community-led process where businesses within a specific geographic area (the boundaries) pay an additional tax. The tax is collected to promote the BIA as a business or shopping area, and improve, beautify, and maintain property and public parking in the BIA.

The annual BIA tax is collected from all businesses within the BIA boundaries by The City of Calgary and is transferred in full back to the BIA. The BIA operates as a non-profit organization and works with its business members to set priorities that are reflected in an annual budget approved by City Council. Please see the second page of this letter for more information on how the BIA tax is calculated.

Requests from a BIA to change its boundaries must be approved by City Council. As outlined in the Business Improvement Area Regulation (AR 93/2016) section 8, before City Council decides on the request to change a BIA's boundaries, business owners within the BIA's current and proposed boundaries must be given the opportunity to make representations to City Council.

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#### Have Questions? Please don't hesitate to reach out:

#### Victoria Park BIA

David Low, Executive Director 403-650-5068 David.low@victoriapark.org Web: www.victoriapark.org The City of Calgary, Major Partners Meghan Mahoney, BIA Strategist 403-988-3634 Meghan.Mahoney@calgary.ca Web: www.calgary.ca/BIA

Sincerely,

Lori Kerr, Manager Major Partners, Partnerships Community Services

Attachment: Map of the Proposed Victoria Park BIA Change in Boundaries cc: Councillor Walcott, Ward 8

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#### BIA tax rate calculation:

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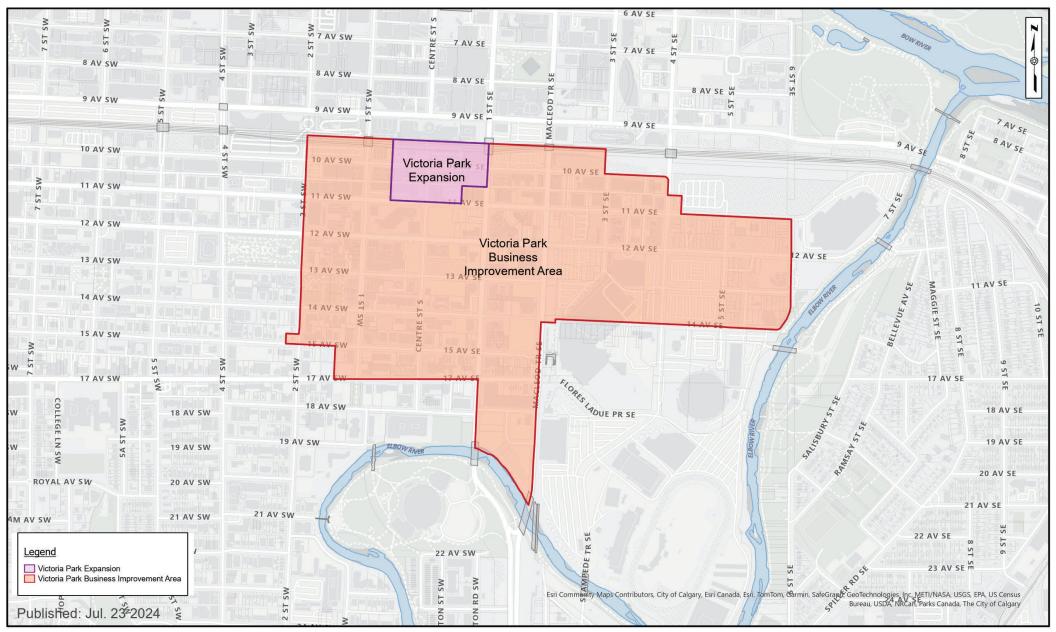
BIA = Assessed value of your business premises **x** BIA tax rate tax bill

\*BIA tax is based on the calendar year January 1 to December 31.

C2024-0570 Attachment 4



#### Map of the Proposed Changes to the Victoria Park Business Improvement Area





30 August 2024

#### RE: Victoria Park Business Improvement Area Proposed Change in Boundaries

Dear Business Owner:

This letter is to inform you that The City of Calgary has received a request from the Victoria Park Business Improvement Area (BIA) to change its boundaries. Attached is a map that identifies the current and proposed expanded boundaries. Your business is located within the current Victoria Park BIA boundaries, and this does not impact your BIA taxes. Please see the back of this letter for more information on how the BIA tax is calculated.

BIAs are established through a community-led process where businesses within a specific geographic area (the boundaries) pay an additional tax. The tax is collected to promote the BIA as a business or shopping area, and improve, beautify, and maintain property and public parking in the BIA.

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BIA = Assessed value of your business premises **x** BIA tax rate tax bill

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C2024-0570 Attachment 4



#### Map of the Proposed Changes to the Victoria Park Business Improvement Area

