



CRESCENT HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Councillor Druh Farrell
City Of Calgary
Ward Seven



September 12, 2018

Dear Councillor Farrell:

At our monthly board meeting last evening we discussed the proposed funding cuts to the Main Streets and compete street initiatives, on which the community of Crescent Heights has placed much faith for the future improvement and revitalization of our important commercial corridors: Centre Street North, Edmonton Trail and the 16th Avenue Urban Corridor. Much of our efforts in recent years has been focussed on the Centre Street corridor, as the Green Line discussion continued and ultimately settled upon that corridor as the alignment of choice: this was an outcome that was seen as optimum for both the City of Calgary and the community of Crescent Heights. Our residents have been fully engaged in the ongoing discussion, aware that our full participation in Main Streets awaited the resolution of the Green Line alignment. While that process proceeded, Crescent Heights kept abreast of the evolution of Main Streets, and our thinking and planning has evolved in such a way as to keep the two initiatives closely aligned in our planning and engagement processes.

Of the hundreds of hours of engagement and discussion that has focussed primarily on the Green Line, this commitment has also anticipated our future participation in Main Streets. The prospect of funding cuts to Main Streets is a body blow to our community, and seems to us to place in jeopardy much of the hard-won consensus with respect to the Green Line and future hard-won improvements that we fairly expected would flow from Main Streets, once Green Line issues were settled and embraced, as they have been in Crescent Heights. The Green Line is a crucial next step in the evolution of our historic community; Main Streets was our best hope to improve the Centre Street Corridor and take it to the next level as a vibrant Urban Corridor: a true and vital Main Street.

Our commercial corridors continue to evolve but will benefit greatly from the processes that have emerged from Main Streets. We have significant urban density in our community. We embrace greater density and have strong and well-reasoned opinions as to where such increased density and vibrancy will work best in Crescent Heights: critical density will achieve its highest and best expression along our commercial corridors. For us, Main Streets is still the best opportunity to realize our density, safety and vibrancy objectives, and we regard the proposal for undoing appropriate funding to be a great disappointment and a lost opportunity, not only for our community but for the greater City of Calgary.

We urge City Council to protect funding for Main Streets, an initiative that we in Crescent Heights see as essential to the full expression of our community and our city.

Yours very truly,

John McDermid
Director, Facilities
CHCA

for the Crescent Heights Community Association