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CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

Proposed 2017 Special Tax Levy – Citadel Community

By Kristoffer Moen

Good morning Councillors, thank-you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Kristoffer Moen and I am the Treasurer for the Citadel Community Association.

Situation

I am here today to talk specifically about attachment 2 – Special Tax Bylaw 2017 Annual Budget Summary. If I could ask for the presentation slide deck page for the attachment be put onto the viewer. As is said often on The Wheel of Fortune, “I would like to buy a vowel, Pat.” Thanks in advance.

The second row in the table lists the amounts for Citadel. The 2016 budget was \$235,731, there was no change to the \$66.95 per lot levy for 2017. However, the 2017 Budget is only \$232,785, a decrease of \$2,946. The difference is due to 44 properties being removed from the “2017 Property count” column.

It is my understanding the Citadel Lot Levy Coordinator was advised three weeks ago regarding the reduction of 44 properties. The reasoning provided by the City of Calgary was stated as:

“this came down to a legal matter to accommodate the terminology of the annual bylaw that states:

A tax for the year 2016 shall be imposed on each parcel of residential land benefiting from this Bylaw at the rates set out in the attached Schedules.

In total this came down to 41 City owned properties and 3 non-residential properties (businesses) that will be excluded from the original budget.”

I have fact checked the City’s reasoning and the quoted Special Tax Bylaw line has been on each bylaw since 2014. There does not appear to be any wording changes for the 2017 Proposed Bylaw that would trigger this event. Based on the limited information provided by the City, the 44 property reduction appears to be the result of finding a clerical error rather than a legal matter.

A quick summary timeline for the Citadel Lot Levy and beautification program.

- October 2016 at the request of the City, the Community Association board approved the 2017 Levy Increase/Decrease.
- January and February 2017 we negotiated the summer beautification program.
- February 28, 2017 board meeting the summer program was approved and I executed the contract.
- For the past 2 weeks the contractor has initiated the approved program under the 2017 contract.

At the last month’s Community and Protective Services meeting, we heard that City Parks could not run a city-wide beautification program for under \$50 per residence. I will let you in on a little secret. In Citadel, we beat the \$50 benchmark by a country mile. Most of the credit belongs to our Lot Levy Coordinator and the 1000s of hours of volunteer service. But other key ingredients are, lots of advance planning and honest communication to ensure no surprises with our supplier plus strong fiscal management.

Impact to Citadel

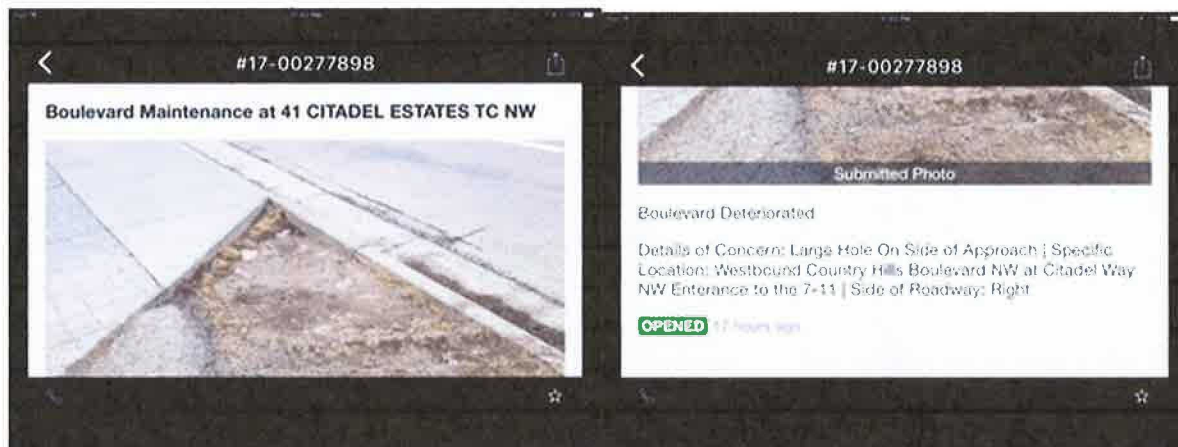
Will the loss of \$2,946 break the lot levy program? Absolutely not, we will adjust. However, it seems petty to subject the Community Association to a minor reduction at the 11th hour when we have all ready began our beautification program.

Request

My request is simple, if the \$2,946 reduction is due to a minor clerical error that has existed for years, could the adjustment not be contemplated for 2018 fiscal year? Restore funding for 2017 to the original \$235,731.

What does \$3,000 buy?

Yesterday there was a 311 app request for Boulevard Maintenance on Citadel Way NW. Below are two screen shots of the 311 request:



The above situation is caused by City of Calgary vehicles; specifically snow plows, sanders, and garbage trucks that are parked on Citadel Way while the drivers' coffee up at the convenience store.

The Lot Levy Coordinator and landscaping contractor have a solution for the problem. It's called xeriscaping. Don't ask me any more about xeriscaping, because all I know is the solution complex and will exceed \$3,000; but it's a permanent fix.

Thanks for your time and I am happy to answer any questions.