

## EDMONTON BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREAS 2022 BUDGETS

### RECOMMENDATION

That the following Edmonton Business Improvement Area 2022 Budgets, as outlined in Attachments 2 to 14 of the December 6, 2021, Urban Planning and Economy report UPE00302, be approved:

- 124 Street and Area Business Association
- Alberta Avenue Business Association
- Beverly Business Association
- Chinatown and Area Business Association
- Downtown Business Association of Edmonton
- Fort Road Business and Community Association
- French Quarter Business Association / Association des Entreprises du Quartier Francophone
- Kingsway District Association
- North Edge Business Association
- Northwest Industrial Business Association
- Old Strathcona Business Association
- Stony Plain Road and Area Business Association
- The Crossroads Business Improvement Area Association

### Report Purpose

#### **Council decision required.**

City Council approves Business Improvement Area (BIA) association budgets annually, pursuant to the province's *Business Improvement Area Regulation* (Alberta Regulation 93/2016), the City's BIA bylaws, and City Policy C462B. Boards of directors for the 13 associations have provided their members with the details of their proposed budgets, have presented and reviewed their budgets at their respective annual general meetings, and have forwarded them to City Council for approval in compliance with provincial and municipal processes and regulations.

# EDMONTON BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREAS 2022 BUDGETS

## Executive Summary

- The 13 Edmonton Business Improvement Area (BIA) associations referenced in this report have submitted their proposed 2022 operating budgets for City Council's consideration.
- Council approval is required in accordance with municipal and provincial processes and regulations.
- BIA budgets are provided through tax levies, and so the proposed 2022 BIA tax levies range from \$80,000 to \$1,324,274.
- Of the 13 BIA associations, seven have maintained their budgets at 2021 levels, while six are seeking a slight increase.
- In 2021, the BIA levy was \$3.354 million overall, compared to a proposed \$3.758 million levy overall for 2022. Of note, in 2020 (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic), the total of the BIA levies was \$3.843 million.
- The 13 BIAs are requesting additional support from the City in 2022 to support their economic recovery from COVID-19.
- As partners, the BIA associations and Administration have worked closely together through the COVID-19 response and the associations continue to demonstrate value in supporting their member businesses through ongoing pandemic impacts to the local economy.

## REPORT

A business improvement area (BIA) is a specific geographic area of the city in which businesses combine resources and work together through a formal business association to enhance the economic development of their area. A BIA and its related association are created by City bylaw, and each BIA has its own bylaw.

City Council must approve BIA association budgets annually, pursuant to the province's *Business Improvement Area Regulation* (Alberta Regulation 93/2016), the City's BIA bylaws, and City Policy C462B, Business Revitalization Zone Establishment and Operation. Boards of directors for the 13 associations have provided their members with the details of their proposed budgets, have presented and reviewed their budgets at their respective annual general meetings, and have forwarded them to City Council for approval in compliance with provincial and municipal processes and regulations.

Annual BIA budgets include total BIA tax levies that an association needs to collect from its members to fund initiatives and operations. The proposed 2022 tax levies for the 13 BIAs range from \$80,000 to \$1,324,274, for an aggregated total of \$3,758,904. The 2022 change in BIA levies is an overall increase of \$404,356 (increase of 12.05 per cent) as described in Attachment 1.

In 2021, City Council approved one time funding to cover 100 per cent of the BIA levies, in recognition of the impacts of COVID-19 on the business community. The total cost of \$3.4 million (as outlined on page 4 of the April 19, 2021 Financial and Corporate Services report), was funded through \$0.9 million in BIA support funds carried forward into the 2021 operating budget, and the remaining \$2.5 million through the COVID-19 funds within the appropriated Financial Stabilization Reserve.

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For 2022, the BIAs are requesting one of two options to support investment in their economic recovery:

- Option 1 requests that City Council provide 50 per cent of the funding for BIA levies. This option would effectively halve the levy paid by BIA member businesses.
- Option 2 requests that City Council provide an additional 50 per cent of member business levies above the proposed levy totals for 2022, for enhanced resources to support economic recovery. This option would effectively provide BIAs with an additional 50 per cent in funding above and beyond their proposed budgets as presented in this report.

The proposed BIA levies for 2022 are \$3.7 million, and 50 per cent equals approximately \$1.85 million. A funding source for either option has not been identified.

Once the budgets are approved, the City sets the respective BIA tax rates and then collects the taxes from all businesses operating in the BIAs. These taxes are remitted in full to each BIA association to fund its activities.

## **COMMUNITY INSIGHT**

In September and October each year, Edmonton's 13 Business Improvement Areas hold their annual general meetings where BIA members are invited to participate and vote on the budget set by the board of directors for the association. All 13 budgets presented to City Council with this report were voted on and approved by the membership of the individual BIAs, according to provincial and municipal processes and regulations.

## **GBA+**

BIA administrators (i.e. Executive Directors and boards) recognize the importance of anticipating the needs of equity seeking groups and business owners. Administration is working to develop training for partner organizations to help them to learn about and apply an equity lens on the planning and execution of BIA initiatives. Integrating GBA+ processes can help ensure that the work and budget allocation contributes to the accessibility and equity of BIA services.

While BIAs are independent entities with their own procedures and operating guidelines, City Administration will:

- Review the bylaws, policies and procedures that govern BIAs to require a GBA+ process for budget formation, as these documents are scheduled for renewal.
- Collaborate with all 13 BIA partners to ensure they have the support to understand, appreciate and apply a high quality GBA+ process, in determining and setting the budget that funds the operations and events of the association.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Overview of Proposed 2022 Business Improvement Area Budgets
2. 124 Street and Area Business Association - 2022 Operating Budget
3. Alberta Avenue Business Association - 2022 Operating Budget
4. Beverly Business Association - 2022 Operating Budget
5. Chinatown and Area Business Association - 2022 Operating Budget

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6. Downtown Business Association of Edmonton - 2022 Operating Budget
7. Fort Road Business and Community Association - 2022 Operating Budget
8. French Quarter Business Association / Association des Entreprises du Quartier Francophone - 2022 Operating Budget
9. Kingsway District Association - 2022 Operating Budget
10. North Edge Business Association - 2022 Operating Budget
11. Northwest Industrial Business Association - 2022 Operating Budget
12. Old Strathcona Business Association - 2022 Operating Budget
13. Stony Plain Road and Area Business Association - 2022 Operating Budget
14. The Crossroads Business Improvement Area Association - 2022 Operating Budget