

EDMONTON BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREAS 2024 BUDGETS

Recommendation

That Executive Committee recommend to City Council:

That the following Edmonton Business Improvement Area Association 2024 Budgets, as outlined in Attachments 2 to 14 of the December 6, 2023, Urban Planning and Economy report UPE01571, 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

Requested Council Action		Decision Required	
ConnectEdmonton's Guiding Principle		ConnectEdmonton Strategic Goals	
CONNECTED This unifies our work to achieve our strategic goals.		Regional Prosperity	
City Plan Values	THRIVE		
City Plan Big City Move(s)	Catalyze and Converge	Relationship to Council's Strategic Priorities	Economic Growth

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Corporate Business Plan	Managing the Corporation
Council Policy, Program or Project Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• C462B - Business Revitalization Zone Establishment and Operation Policy
Related Council Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• December 6, 2023, UPE01572 - Edmonton Business Improvement Areas 2024 Boards of Directors

Executive Summary

- The 13 Edmonton Business Improvement Area (BIA) associations referenced in this report have submitted their proposed 2024 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, so the proposed 2024 BIA tax levies range from \$80,000 to \$1,707,547.
- All 13 budgets presented to City Council with this report were voted on and approved by the membership of the individual BIA associations. These taxes are remitted in full to each BIA association.
- Of the 13 BIA associations, five have maintained their budgets at 2023 levels, while six are seeking an increase, and two (Chinatown and 124 Street) are proposing a small decrease. These budgets reflect each BIA association's priorities and the resources required to achieve them.
- In 2023, the BIA levy was \$4.09 million overall, compared to the proposed \$4.39 million levy overall for 2024. Of note, in 2020 (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic), the total of the BIA levies was \$3.84 million.

REPORT

A business improvement area (BIA) is a defined geographic area in which businesses combine resources and work together through a formal association of business members to enhance the economic development of their area. Edmonton's 13 BIA associations and their board members are critical partners in achieving the City's strategic goal of Regional Prosperity and the ongoing development of Edmonton's economic strategy, the Economic Action Plan. A BIA and its related association are created by City bylaw, and each of Edmonton's 13 BIAs has its own bylaw.

City Council must approve BIA association budgets annually, pursuant to the province's *Business Improvement Area Regulation*, 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 required to operationalize each association's priorities, presented and approved their budgets at their respective annual general meetings, and forwarded them to City Council for approval in compliance with provincial and municipal processes and regulations.

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Annual BIA budgets include total BIA tax levies that an association needs to collect from its members to fund initiatives and operations. The proposed 2024 tax levies for the 13 BIAs range from \$80,000 to \$1,707,547, for an aggregated total of \$4.39 million. The 2024 change in BIA levies is an overall increase of \$300,818 (+7.35 per cent) for 2024, as described in Attachment 1, compared to an increase of \$331,482 (+8.82 per cent) for 2023.

Once the budgets are approved by Council, 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, as indicated in Attachment 1, to fund each association's activities.

Community Insight

In September and October each year, Edmonton's 13 BIAs 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.

GBA+

BIA administrators (i.e. Executive Directors and boards) are responsible to anticipate the needs of equity-seeking groups and business owners in their area. Administration is working to develop resources 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 is responsible to:

- Periodically review the bylaws, policies and procedures that govern BIAs to require a GBA+ process for budget formation.
- Collaborate with all 13 BIA association administrators to ensure they have support to understand 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 2024 Business Improvement Area Budgets
2. 124 Street and Area Business Association - 2024 Operating Budget
3. Alberta Avenue Business Association - 2024 Operating Budget
4. Beverly Business Association - 2024 Operating Budget
5. Chinatown and Area Business Association - 2024 Operating Budget
6. Downtown Business Association of Edmonton - 2024 Operating Budget
7. Fort Road Business and Community Association - 2024 Operating Budget
8. French Quarter Business Association / Association des Entreprises du Quartier Francophone - 2024 Operating Budget
9. Kingsway District Association - 2024 Operating Budget
10. North Edge Business Association - 2024 Operating Budget
11. Northwest Industrial Business Association - 2024 Operating Budget

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12. Old Strathcona Business Association - 2024 Operating Budget

13. Stony Plain Road and Area Business Association - 2024 Operating Budget

14. The Crossroads Business Improvement Area Association - 2024 Operating Budget