

April 7th, 2024

Dear Councilor Penner,

The Willow Ridge Community Association understands the serious housing pressures that Calgarians are facing. Our association supports increasing housing choices and densification through policy and planning that is thoughtful, respectful of the character of each neighbourhood, and undertaken in consultation with residents and taxpayers. We do not believe the current blanket rezoning approach demonstrates the above qualities, and further, we believe it is a breach of good faith between the city and our community.

On September 19, 2023, the City of Calgary Council approved the Heritage Communities - Local Area Plan (LAP) which included both the communities of Willow Park and Maple Ridge. Our Community Association participated in several years of thoughtful consultation and collaboration with city planning experts to develop an LAP that will increase housing choices and densification needs within our community. Significant effort, money, and time was put into developing the new LAP by both city planning experts and our community members. The journey was at times difficult, but the outcome represents a collaborative and consultative plan that increases the vibrancy of our community and supports the city's immediate and long-term housing goals.

We believe that consultation and dialogue are important.

We believe that representing the interests of our constituents is important.

We believe in upholding agreements and commitments made.

Our community has a plan to increase housing that is approved by the city and developed through thoughtful discussion, consultation, and hard work with residents. By approving blanket rezoning, the WRCA believes that the agreement represented in our LAP will be reneged in a fashion that demonstrates a dire lack of consultation, dialogue, and proper representation.

One of our members, who was a core member of the LAP community consultation group, sums up the general sentiment well: "I feel all our discussion, voiced concerns, hours and hours spent and suggestions made are all for absolute zilch. What a wasted effort for all involved. Feels like a betrayal."

Our society and city are already divided enough. Reactive policy and reneging on agreements will only further the divide. We urge you to vote against blanket rezoning, and to use established processes to engage communities locally, such as LAP, to create thoughtful densification plans.

Let's work towards achieving the vision we already created.

Sincerely,



Jason Carling

Willow Ridge Community Association President