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April 22, 2022

Urban Planning Committee
City of Edmonton
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, AB T5J 4R7

Re: April 26, 2022, Urban Planning Committee – Item 6.1 – Infill Roadmap Initiative – 2022 Update

Dear Urban Planning Committee and members of Edmonton City Council,

Edmonton's Infill Roadmaps (2014 and 2018) were created in response to the policy target – stated in the City's previous Municipal Development Plan (*The Way We Grow*) – of achieving 25% of net new housing units as infill. Based on this goal, the preparation, production, implementation, and monitoring of the Infill Roadmaps spanned four terms of City Council and required the leadership of three Mayors. Collectively, these roadmaps have covered almost 50 action items designed to make infill easier to achieve – from policy and regulatory amendments to enable a diversity of housing forms to improvements to permitting processes and timelines to support predictability and certainty of outcomes. As a result, Edmonton's infill outcomes and fortunes changed. In fact, over the past few years, the percentage share of infill reached 30%, which has exceeded the original target set out in *The Way We Grow*. The Infill Roadmaps also positioned Edmonton as a leader on intensification and resulted in national news coverage and awards, and continues to profile Edmonton as a seminal case study for municipalities across the country.

Looking forward, our collective task is no less ambitious. The City Plan (2020), which replaced *The Way We Grow* (2010), calls for 50% of all net new housing units to be built as infill over the coming decades. The difference this time, in addition to the additional volume of new units, will be the scale of development realized. The Infill Roadmaps focused on small and medium density housing forms to enable incremental change. To achieve the vision outlined in the City Plan, a concerted effort to strategically and proactively support high density development at nodes, along corridors, and in the Centre City will be required.

Edmonton has not planned for this type of redevelopment and urban transformation before, at scale, and city-wide. Enabling this type of growth will require new ideas,

investments, partnerships, community conversations and the coordination of infrastructure between the public and private sectors. Issues such as infrastructure upgrades and cost-sharing systems, more dispersed and localized public amenities for higher density urban populations, equitable taxation policy, and a more permissive regulatory environment will all be required to foster the “rebuildable city” envisioned in the City Plan.

In other words, the efforts that got us to where we are today will not necessarily propel us to the vision articulated in the City Plan – what we can build on is an excellent track-record of making positive change happen. We should leverage that.

We encourage this Council to continue and expand on the work of previous leaders and to prioritize partnerships and coordination with utility providers, community groups, and the business community to help bring the 50% target to reality. City building is a long-term game and the patience and diligence shown in the Infill Roadmaps sets a good example for the kind of thinking, and persistence, that will be required in the future.

In conclusion, we would like to thank successive administrations, Councils, communities, and investors, for their commitment to getting Edmonton to this point. We are committed to working in partnership to help to build the city envisioned for 2 million people in developing and redeveloping communities alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kalen Anderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kalen Anderson
Executive Director, UDI-EM

CC: Andre Corbould, City Manager
Office of the City Clerk
Stephanie McCabe, Deputy City Manager of Urban Planning and Economy
Kim Petrin, Branch Manager of Development Services
Kent Snyder, Branch Manager of Planning and Environment Services
Michaela Davis, UDI Planning Committee Chair