



CALGARIANS FOR THOUGHTFUL GROWTH

Office of the Mayor,
The City of Calgary,
PO Box 2100 Station M, #8001B,
Calgary AB T2P 2M5

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Re: Support the Notice of Motion to Repeal Blanket Upzoning

Dear Mayor Farkas,

There is a moment in every city's life when the people speak plainly and ask only that their government hear them. Calgary has had two such moments. The first came in the spring of 2024, through the biggest public hearing this city has ever seen, when Calgarians lined up for days to say that blanket upzoning was the wrong tool, imposed in the wrong way, on the wrong scale. By the City's own count, a clear majority of speakers opposed it

It came again in the municipal election of 2025, when voters returned a Council majority on an explicit promise to repeal that bylaw and start again with real, community-specific planning. That is what democratic legitimacy looks like: a hearing record and an electoral mandate pointing in the same direction. The question before you is not whether you agree with every person who opposed blanket upzoning. The question is simpler and more honourable than that: **will you respect what Calgarians have asked for, in a lawful way, and keep faith with the democratic bargain that brought you here?**

Calgarians are not opposed to increased housing. We are not opposed to affordability. We are not opposed to gentle density where it makes sense. We are opposed to a **one-size-fits-all decree** that overwrote local plans, ignored neighbourhood context, and treated every street as if it were the same street. We are opposed to a system that makes demolition more lucrative than renewal, turning modest homes into expensive infills while calling it "affordability." We are opposed to an approach that, before it was passed, had not been matched to the realities of infrastructure capacity, traffic, parking pressure, schools, parks, utilities, or transit at the neighbourhood scale.

In 2024, Calgarians pleaded for planned growth — density near transit, along corridors, within activity centres, and through Local Area Plans that mean something. They asked for change with consent, not change by fiat. They asked for a City that grows in a way that is coherent, safe, and fair. They were not heard in 2024.

And Calgarians remember what happens when they are not heard.

Over the last term of the previous Council, public confidence in City Hall fell to record lows in multiple polls, and columnists across the city described that Council's approval as historically poor. Whatever one thinks of the decisions of the previous Mayor and Council, the public lesson is unmistakable: when elected officials disregard the public hearing record, dismiss community concern, and govern as if the people are an obstacle, trust collapses. And when trust collapses, progress is impaired, the city grows more divided, and the Council becomes deadlocked and ineffective.

You have the chance to break that cycle.

The Notice of Motion before you does not repeal anything overnight. It does not deny a fair process. It begins a lawful repeal pathway and sends the question to a public hearing, where Calgarians will speak again. Supporting the Notice of Motion is not anti-housing; it is pro-democracy, pro-planning, and pro-targeted growth that fits the city we live in.

If you vote for this Notice of Motion, you send a message that the hearing record matters, that election commitments matter, and that Calgary will not be rebuilt on distrust. You say that Council will restore the pre-blanket base districts as the governing baseline, then engage with communities in good faith to craft neighbourhood-specific plans to identify targeted redesignations where they belong. By supporting this notice of motion, you say that Calgary can add housing without sacrificing legitimacy, community context, or existing affordability.

If you vote against it — or weaken it until repeal becomes a mirage — you send a different message: that two clear democratic signals can be ignored; that promises can be shelved; that the public may speak but will be disregarded. That road is familiar to Calgarians now, and it ends where the last Council ended: with public disapproval, a flood of SDAB appeals, litigation and a verdict at the ballot box.

Do better. Do what Calgarians are clearly asking for. Do what you said you would do. Restore trust by restoring lawful, community-rooted planning.

Vote in favour of the Notice of Motion to repeal blanket upzoning, and let Calgary start again — not in anger, but in fairness; not by imposition, but by consent.

Respectfully,

Calgarians For Thoughtful Growth
Jennifer Baldwin, Chris Davis, Robert Lehodey, Patricia McCunn-Miller, Rusty Miller, Lisa Poole