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Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues

November 27, 2006

Mayor Mandel
City Councillors

Greetings:

We understand City Council's interest in moving forward with the initiative to utilize surplus school sites for the "First Time Home Buyer Program" and certainly recognize the benefit this program will provide new homeowners.

City Council will consider formal approval of this initiative at the regular Council meeting being held tomorrow – specific to the following five agenda items:

- E.1.i. – Plan Amendments
- G.1.e. - Disposal of Reserve Land
- L.1.h. - Bylaw 14440
- L.1.i. - Bylaw 14441
- L.1.j. - Bylaw 14442

While we are supportive of the concept and the potential benefits, we do wish to point out the following:

AN OBSERVATION : the approach taken in expediting this initiative has essentially circumvented the standard process of involving the community in formulating potential uses for surplus school sites to meet local community need. Understandably time is of the essence but short-circuiting the community process has given rise to a measure of consternation among some communities.

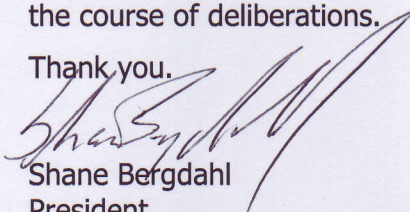
CONCERN #1 : it is our understanding in reviewing documents associated with the above noted agenda items, that communities (and community leagues) will not receive notification regarding residential development on these designated sites. We believe the established standard notification process should be followed.

CONCERN #2 : it is our understanding that respective communities are to be involved in discussions regarding building footprint location options and housing design but this is not stated or clearly identified in the documentation.

CONCERN #3 : it is our understanding the reserve designation is being removed from multiple parcels within a site (in addition to the surplus school site). We advocate that assurance be provided so that only the surplus school site would be utilized for residential housing and the balance of the site will unequivocally be retained for public park purpose.

We understand there are many details that yet need to be worked out to ensure success of this innovative program, however we respectfully request Council consider these concerns in the course of deliberations.

Thank you.



Shane Bergdahl
President