



NM 2012-16
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THE CITY OF CALGARY
CITY CLERK'S

NOTICE OF MOTION
CC 661 (R2009-05)

2012 March 6

RE: Creating Change in Municipal/Provincial Relations

ALDERMAN PETER DEMONG

WHEREAS Recent political discussion has noted that the Province may be open to setting up a different relationship structure with Alberta's major cities, either through a Large City Charter or by other amendments to the Municipal Government Act;

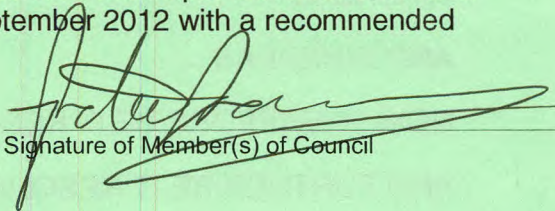
AND WHEREAS the Calgary Chamber of Commerce is launching a Great Cities Event Series campaign to explore new tools, authorities and innovations in financing, funding and managing our cities;

AND WHEREAS little formal discussion and high-level research reporting has taken place to Calgary City Council with respect to what changes Council might request if such a review of the MGA were to suddenly be approved;

AND WHEREAS if such a review were to take place, then it is vital that citizens, taxpayer groups and other involved stakeholders be thoroughly consulted; and they will likely be seeking input into how more accountability, checks and balance, and fairness and equity in public and electoral processes will be assured;

AND WHEREAS IF THE City of Calgary were to initiate such public discussions – prior to any review announcement – and engage sizeable numbers of citizens in the process, the resulting public and media interest might help provide a further catalyst precipitating such a review, which could be vital to Calgary's best interests in future;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council request the Mayor's office, along with Administration and in consultation with other interested stakeholders, develop a proposed action plan, with budget implications, to undertake a broad and open public consultation process that would assist in determining what changes in powers, legislation, rights and responsibilities the citizens, and the City of Calgary, might want to see in an amended Municipal Government Act or in a Large Cities Charter, and report back to Council by September 2012 with a recommended course of action.


Signature of Member(s) of Council



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AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Administration be asked to concurrently research and develop a pro and con (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Analysis) background report on various governance reforms that would likely arise as part of any public consultation process, in order to be prepared to engage the public in an informed and balanced manner, such report to include but not be limited to:

- Various electoral campaign finance reform proposals, including: spending limits, contributor disclosures, tax receipt status, fundraising procedures between elections, campaign surplus handling and other issues which have been contentious in the past;
- Term limits and whether they have provided evidence of improved governance or not;
- What audit, overseer and reporting rights should the Province hold or not hold, and of those processes what should be mandatory or discretionary;
- Taxpayer protection legislation and approaches-experiences elsewhere;
- Creating an office of City Ombudsman



Signature of Member(s) of Council