

To: **FOIP 17(1)**
Cc: Council
From: Matthew Goudy, CAO
Date: October 22, 2019

Reference: 11/154/2019-225

RE: Submitted Bylaw Complaints

Thank you for your August 26th letter highlighting several properties of concern within the City of Lacombe. I am pleased to provide the following updates, in relation to those specific complaints. Bylaw Enforcement was already working with some of the owners of the properties you identified, but others were brought to our attention by your letter – thank you for helping us in this regard.

Rather than letting concerns reach a critical mass, I encourage you (in the future) to submit your complaints directly to the Bylaw Enforcement Department as they arise. Our staff will be happy to help, and work to make sure properties in the City are compliant with the Community Standards Bylaw.

Unkempt Property at 54th Ave and 55th Street

As of October 4th, this property was in compliance with the Community Standards Bylaw

Property at Corner of 53rd Ave and 55th Street

As of October 4th, this property was in compliance with the Community Standards Bylaw

Property Between 51st Street and 52nd Street

As of October 4th, this property was in compliance with the Community Standards Bylaw

Alleyway Off of 54th Ave between 51st Street and 52nd Street

As of October 4th, this property was in compliance with the Community Standards Bylaw. Alley cleanup has been an ongoing project throughout the entire City through the late summer and early fall. Most properties are in now compliance. Those that are not compliant are being dealt with through an Order to Remedy.

Noxious Weeds

When it comes to weeds, Bylaw Enforcement only enforces 'Prohibited Noxious' weeds. However, if the growth of other types of weeds (i.e. noxious weeds) are exceptionally high, they will request that they are mowed just like grass would be requested to be mowed. Your suggestion to review the Community Standards Bylaw in regards to the weeds section, is noted, and will be a future consideration when the Bylaw is reviewed.

Additional Concerns

Your letter also identifies a variety of concerns regarding matters including the City's curbs, murals, roadways, alleys, utility right-of-ways, parking lots, vegetation, garbage bins, the Wolf Creek Recycle Depot, the Thrift Store Dropoff, the state of select private businesses, commercial storage of hazardous



waste by private businesses, the City's management processes, approach to Bylaw enforcement, staffing levels, regulation of land development, and the visibility of Directors within the community.

I was disappointed to read that you feel the City has been (and still is) in a '*spiral of decline*,' because it means we have not done a good job in promoting the many positive things that have occurred, and are occurring, in our community.

In recent years the City has received significant positive recognition from independent media outlets, including being named as one of the best places to live in the country^{1,2}, the most charitable community in Alberta³, and a model of good management for the province⁴. Without a doubt, there is room for improvement, but overall, we're very proud of Lacombe, which makes it difficult to read the frustrations from such long-standing, and engaged, residents as yourselves.

Rather than attempt to provide a comment on each one of the concerns identified in your letter, I'd extend an invitation to open a dialogue on issues facing the City. If you're interested, please give me a call – I look forward to discussing solutions for the concerns you've raised.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Goudy', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Matthew Goudy, P.Eng
Chief Administrative Officer

¹ Money Sense Magazine – Best Places to Live in Canada [2018]; (<https://www.moneysense.ca/spend/real-estate/best-places-to-live-canada-2018-alberta/>)

² Money.inc – The 20 Best Places to Live in Canada [2019]; (<https://moneyinc.com/best-places-to-live-in-canada/>)

³ The Owl – Charitable Giving in Alberta Part II [2018]; (<https://www.atb.com/learn/economics/the-owl/Pages/charitable-giving-in-ab-part-ii.aspx>)

⁴ Lacombe Express – Alberta Government should take note of Lacombe's municipal success [2019]; (<https://www.lacombeexpress.com/opinion/vaughan-alberta-government-should-take-note-of-lacombes-municipal-success/>)