

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM43.41	ACTION			Ward: All
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More than Window Shopping: Exploring Opportunities to Support Small Businesses Facing Vandalized Windows - by Councillor Brad Bradford, seconded by Paula Fletcher

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate*

Recommendations

Councillor Brad Bradford, seconded by Paula Fletcher, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, in collaboration with any relevant divisions, to explore as part of the Municipal Code review process, opportunities to expand the scope of use for existing Business Improvement Area funds for private property repairs to include contribution to repairs for windows broken through acts of vandalism, and to report back to the Economic and Community Development Committee at its meeting on July 6, 2022.

Summary

Across the pandemic, and in particular in recent months, East End Business Improvement Areas have experienced an increased number of incidents involving vandalism and damage to storefront windows and glass front doors. The current Business Improvement Area Municipal Code Chapter 19-2.1, does not provide a pathway for Business Improvement Areas and small business members to utilize existing funds to cover the costs for replacing vandalized windows. Business Improvement Areas are limited on the type of work that can occur on private property, per the structure of levies and the City's priority lien status.

A previous amendment to the Municipal Code occurred in 2007 to permit the use of funds to contribute to removal of graffiti and postering. With a Municipal Code review currently underway, this is an opportune time for relevant City Divisions to undertake exploration on any opportunities to support small businesses facing these incidents.

This matter is time sensitive and urgent as it responds to an increased number of incidents in the local community and additionally requires providing City staff the required time to review this matter in advance of the filing deadline for their upcoming report to Economic and Community Development Committee.

Background Information (City Council)

(May 11, 2022) Member Motion MM43.41

