

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2017

PETITION TO COUNCIL ON BORROWING BYLAW DEEMED INSUFFICIENT

Ten per cent threshold not met

The City of St. Albert has completed its review of the petition presented to Council on May 15, 2017 regarding the borrowing bylaw, which is being considered to fund construction of a branch library.

The Government of Alberta, through the *Municipal Government Act*, sets out the requirements for a petition to Council to be sufficient. Petitions must meet all legislative requirements to be considered sufficient.

The review has concluded the petition does not meet the requirement that it contain a minimum of 6,465 valid signatures, which is equal to 10 per cent of St. Albert's population. The petition contained a total of 6,696 signatures, but at least 588 of those signatures are invalid. For the petition to be sufficient, there could be no more than 231 invalid signatures.

All signatures of petitioners must be witnessed by a person "who must take an affidavit that to the best of the person's knowledge the signatures witnessed are those of persons entitled to sign the petition." For the petition on the borrowing bylaw, 588 of the signatures were signed after the date of each of the respective witness's affidavit. No subsequent affidavits were submitted referring to the additional signatures, which means those additional signatures are invalid. Also, one page with 17 signatures did not have an accompanying affidavit. As a result, the requirement for the petition to contain at least 6,465 valid signatures was not met.

In the next few weeks, a report providing options on the borrowing bylaw will be presented to Council for consideration.

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