

To: Councillor Gullekson  
Cc: Council  
From: Matthew Goudy, CAO  
Date: December 3, 2019

## RE: Downtown Recycling

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the installation of recycle "containers" downtown in tandem with garbage receptacles on block corners. Both you and the downtown business community are correct to observe there are limited (almost no) recycling options for pedestrian's downtown provided by the City.

In the first quarter of 2020 we will be engaging downtown business owners, general public and members of the previous Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan (DARP) Committee regarding their priorities for street improvements downtown. We have heard other requests for additional street furniture downtown, including more bike racks and benches so we plan to determine, through the engagement process, the level of priority these groups place on additional street furniture downtown including additional recycling receptacles. The complete list of priorities will be brought forward to Council's for endorsement in Q2 2020. However, in the interim the Parks Department has been looking into various combination garbage/recycling bins options and has found one it wants to trial (picture below).



Beginning in early 2020, 3 new trial bins will be added the following locations downtown: near Home Hardware, near Circle K, and near the old Police Station. If there are no concerns with the trial bins, they may be considered for more widespread deployment.

The City provides funds to user groups on a case by case basis at the direction of Council. The most effective way for a user group to seek City funding is make a request of Council. Unfortunately, at this time Administration does not have the capacity to develop and manage a user group lottery funded by recycle container revenue. However, with Council's direction, we can explore this further and present Council with a proposal for consideration.

User groups typically utilize organized bottle drives as a way to generate revenue for operations or charitable causes. This allows organizers to focus their volunteer resources on a single event rather than on an ongoing operation. Albertadepot.ca is a good resource for any user groups wishing to start or improve on their bottle drive initiatives. Alberta Depot also administers a Community Champions Program which *"...provides funding for specialized recycling bins (indoor and outdoor) and start-up support for local beverage container recycling programs, by ensuring more accessible and convenient out-of-home opportunities for recycling...[The program] offers \$20,000 per municipality or non-profit organization to purchase recycling infrastructure."* User groups interested in this program that wish to locate a recycle container on public property may contact the City.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

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

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