



September 1, 2026

Edmonton City Council  
c/o Office of the City Clerk  
City of Edmonton  
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2R7

To Mayor Knack and City Council:

**Re: Item 7.1 Chinatown Community Clean Up Program**

On behalf of the Edmonton Downtown Business Association (EDBA), I would like to provide a brief comment regarding the proposed Chinatown cleaning initiative.

As background, the North Chinatown area falls within the Chinatown and Area Business Association. The South Chinatown area, also referred to as The Quarters, is located within the EDBA boundaries. While there are important conversations to be had regarding how businesses in South Chinatown/The Quarters are best served in the future, the EDBA was not engaged in the development of this report and has not yet had an opportunity to discuss cleaning service options for this portion of downtown.

Please know that the EDBA is supportive of efforts to address cleaning needs in Chinatown overall. We recognize the challenges that social disorder can have on cleanliness, appearance, perceptions of safety, and business confidence. These are concerns shared across many parts of downtown Edmonton.

The EDBA believes Chinatown and Downtown both benefit when cleaning and maintenance investments are strengthened across the broader centre city.

As Committee considers this item, we respectfully ask that any decisions avoid compromising the cleaning services currently delivered within Downtown. Downtown businesses continue to rely on enhanced cleaning, maintenance, and public realm supports that address issues such as biohazards, illegally dumped waste, and overall cleanliness.

We look forward to a broader conversation this fall regarding downtown cleaning and maintenance priorities in the context of the City's 2027-2030 Budget. In particular, the EDBA will be advocating for the continuation of the Centre City Optimization initiative. A key change we are requesting is that the visibility of these teams be enhanced to improve public awareness and confidence in the program, aligned with Council's priority of delivering quality services.

Given that downtown-wide cleaning services are not the subject of the current report, we respectfully ask Committee to ensure that efforts to address Chinatown's cleaning needs do not result in the reduction or displacement of the cleaning and maintenance supports currently in place throughout Downtown.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James L. Robinson  
Executive Director  
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