



POSTPONED MOTIONS: ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

NUMBER: PM-19-029

REQUESTED BY:	Councillor Ken MacKay
ORIGIN OF REQUEST:	City Council
DATE OF REQUEST:	November 8, 2018

AUTHOR:	Peter Bailey
DEPARTMENT:	Library
DATE RESPONSE DUE:	November 14, 2018

MOTION:

That Capital Charter LIB-001 Library Storefront Access Point in the amount of \$517,000 be funded in 2019 from the Capital Reserve and; That the 2019 operating allocation to the Library be increased by \$279,200 related to the Library Storefront Access Point and be funded through taxes

RESPONSE (one page max.):

Administration's Understanding of Intent Motion:

It is Administration's understanding that this motion is intended to fund 2019 Capital Project Charter LIB-001: Library Storefront Access Point and ongoing operating impact costs.

Operational or Organizational Impacts if Motion is Approved:

If this motion is approved, the Storefront Access Point project would be implemented in 2019. Estimated timeline:

- January – February 2019: Location selection and lease negotiation
- February – March 2019: Design and staging. Staff recruitment.
- March – May 2019: Fit up, staff training, soft open.
- June 2019: Opening
- 2020: First full year of operation

Financial Implications of Motions:

2019 Capital investment (one-time): \$517,000

2019 Operating investment (year one; partial year): \$279,225

2019 TOTAL investment: \$796,225

Given the relationship between Council and the Library Board, administration did not deem either the capital charter or operating impacts to be either funded or unfunded. Approval of this motion will commit an additional \$517,000 of capital dollars, reducing the amount available in future years and add an additional \$279,200 to the overall tax requirement for 2019.

Stakeholder Consultations:

The Library will work with its partners, including City of St. Albert Departments plus community agencies and organizations, to consult with stakeholders.

Background:

St. Albert's need for additional library space is real, longstanding and growing. Opened in 1983, the current St. Albert Place facility passed maximum capacity in 2000. As discussions and planning continues on long-term solutions to library and other civic space needs, the requirement for an immediate, interim solution to library space needs becomes apparent.

Objective - The Storefront Access Point will be a physical location that will bring essential library services to an underserved area of St. Albert. This transitional measure will ensure equality of access to library services until a long-term solution is in place.

Current State – Residents see the Library as one of their most important public spaces, a strength of the community – well-liked and well-used. The Library is the busiest public library in Alberta, based on loans per capita. Yet the Library has the second-lowest space per capita in Alberta. Space for people is the major driver of demand: programs, study space and learning activities. Program attendance has increased 450% over the last 25 years.

Opportunities - As our community has evolved, so too has our library. Today public libraries are community hubs, active centres of shared space for learning, creativity and community life. A focus on digital literacy has helped many residents take their place in the digital economy. The Library Community Literacy Van has brought these services to neighbourhoods throughout the City.

The Storefront Access Point is a new, innovative approach to service delivery, building on the success of the Van, allowing the Library to reach more people. The Storefront Access Point will be a small space of about 3,000 square feet, located in a high traffic area in north St. Albert. It will provide access to the

Library's essential services: materials pick-up and drop-off, browsing collection of popular books and other materials for all ages, a sampling of library programming (early literacy, makerspace), WiFi and computer access, printing/fax/scan services and community space for studying, reading and enjoyment.