

Starling

Hi everyone! My name is Andrew Knack and I am very fortunate to be serving as the City Councillor for Ward 1 which includes the community of Starling. Although I have the opportunity to meet with residents while attending community events and meetings, I also like to go door-knocking to chat with people one-on-one. That gives me the chance to connect with those who are not able to attend the public meetings and gather a wide range of feedback. As you may have additional questions or comments not covered here, please feel free to contact me using the information on the back of the page.



Start a Community League

The neighbourhood of Starling does not currently have a community league, however we are hoping that will change soon! Community leagues are important community hubs that can promote volunteerism, advocate for community specific needs, and facilitate events. Chris Auton, the Neighbourhood Resource Coordinator, has been leading the start up of a Starling community league. If you are interested in helping create a community league in your neighbourhood please contact Chris at chris.auton@edmonton.ca or 780.496.3595. The more people that sign up to volunteer a few hours of their time, the more vibrant the community will be.

Budget

This fall, Edmonton City Council will be deciding on our upcoming four year budget, priorities including the bus network redesign. During the campaign last year, I said that I would like to strive to keep any increases in 2019 to at or below inflation. During every budget consultation, the public will be able to submit their feedback through various City of Edmonton surveys, as well as register to speak at a Public Hearing. Of course, residents of Ward 1 are always welcome to send feedback directly to me as well.

Lewis Farms Recreation Centre

The construction of the Lewis Farms Recreation Centre/Library and West LRT will be discussed during the 2019-2022 Capital Budget deliberations. I plan to put forward motions during the 2019-2022 Capital Budget deliberations to begin construction on both the Lewis Farms Recreation Centre/Library and the West LRT. Recently, Council approved the first reading of a Bylaw to purchase the necessary land. This funding for land could be finalized by the Fall with the larger budget conversation happening in November and December.

Schools and Intersections

The last time I visited Starling, there were several questions about new school developments in the neighbourhood. Schools remain under provincial jurisdiction and I encourage you to contact Education Minister David Eggen or your school board trustees if you have specific questions. They can be reached

at education.minister@gov.ab.ca or 780.427.5010, Edmonton Public School Board Trustee Shelagh Dunn at Shelagh.Dunn@epsb.ca or 780.429.8085, or Edmonton Catholic School District Trustee Terry Harris at Terence.Harris@ecsd.net or 780.937.8268.

I also remain aware of the concerns regarding the intersection of Ray Gibbon Drive and 137 Avenue. I have inquired with the provincial government about upgrades and have been told that the intersection is a provincial priority but has not secured funding yet. Trevor Horne is the MLA for that specific intersection and can be reached at Trevor.Horne@assembly.ab.ca or 780.962.6606.

Public Consumption of Cannabis in Edmonton

On June 18th, I put out a survey to collect feedback on how we should implement the public consumption of cannabis in Edmonton. The feedback submitted was diverse, well thought-out, and also divided. While many folks in Ward 1 and Edmontonians more broadly believe that there should be no public consumption of cannabis allowed, others advocate for a more flexible system. In our Council Committee meetings leading up to this discussion we heard from people in other jurisdictions where cannabis is already legal. Their feedback was based on their actual experiences and it was suggested that starting with more strict consumption rules and potentially loosening them over time would allow the City to be responsive to our citizen needs. Council also considered tying public tobacco usage to cannabis as that might make the new bylaw easier to enforce and set clear expectations for everyone. I am primarily concerned with creating a bylaw that will protect air quality in public spaces, while it being flexible enough to adapt as our society learns more about the potential health impacts of cannabis usage. On Wednesday, July 11th, Council revisited tying tobacco consumption to cannabis consumption, which would restrict public tobacco usage. Council decided to further consider this proposal and will be revisiting it in September.



Community Conversation

Approximately every three months I hold a community conversation to talk about various issues and to provide updates on current issues in the Ward. The next Community Conversation will be held late September 2018. Please check my website in coming weeks to find out the specific date and time!

**Please call 311, 24 hours a day, every day of the year
for access to City of Edmonton information, programs and services.**

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