

MEDIA STATEMENT
COUNCILLOR JEROMY FARKAS

December 20, 2018, Calgary, AB – Today, Councillor Jeromy Farkas provided evidence that Calgary City Council’s salary formula has determined a 2.37% increase for the 2019 year. This validates Councillor Farkas’ public position that Council was due for a pay increase estimated at 2.34%, as according to documents provided to him by City human resources staff.

Farkas made the following statement:

“In 2012, Council passed a motion adopting a formula for Council salary changes, based on a 12-month average of Average Weekly Earnings. City Human resources staff have been following this direction ever since.

*This year, according to the final data now available from Statistics Canada, the formula has determined a salary change for 2019 to be an increase of 2.37%. **To be clear, my position and evidence have been validated. Council will receive a pay raise, rather than a pay decrease unless Council directs otherwise.** Council has not changed the existing formula since 2012.*

I wish to emphasize the following points:

My information, as provided to me by City Human Resources, and as shared by me in Council and with my constituents, was correct and reflected both the facts and past council direction.

- *When the Mayor and Council ejected me, they did so without evidence and in error. I did my homework, as expected of me as a member of Council. I proposed holding off on Council’s decision until the relevant facts came to light, but was rebuffed.*
- *I have proven that the allegations brought against me are untrue. It is clear that I acted both in good faith and in my constituents’ interest.*

My expectation is that City Council and Administration, will do the decent thing, do the right thing, and fully recognize their error.

I love my work and I take great joy in serving Calgarians. I wish to return to this important work with my name cleared. I look forward to administration confirming the results of this formula calculation. Once the salary increase is confirmed, my first course of action will be to introduce a notice of motion to roll back 2019 salary to 2018 levels and place a pay freeze until the next election.

Calgary City Council is one of the highest paid Councils in Canada and Calgarians continue to face economic hardship. We must lead by example. Lastly, I am concerned that the tenor of our debates have become too personal, and the result is permanent damage to the credibility of our council. In the New Year, I am hopeful that Council will refocus on our duties to discuss important issues and affect positive change for Calgarians in a respectful way.”