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Anti-littering bylaw stalled by alderman

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Tougher penalties for flicking a lit cigarette or tossing trash out a car window won't come into effect until the fall after council delayed final approval of the bylaw.

The first two readings of the bylaw cracking down on litter were passed Monday in a narrow 8-7 vote.

However, the rules won't go into effect until after the Sept. 8 council meeting because one alderman, Diane Colley-Urquhart, blocked final reading, suggesting the proposed rules were unenforceable.

Still, the majority of council agreed with the bylaw, meaning it will be rubber-stamped in the fall when aldermen return from summer break.

Once it's passed, people caught littering will face a \$500 fine, while smokers who toss a lit cigarette could be hit with a \$1,000 fine.

Ald. Druh Farrell, who proposed the higher fines, said it sends a strong message to Calgarians.

"Littering is just becoming an increasingly expensive issue for the city to deal with. We have more and more people littering."

Farrell said it's also hard on the environment.

She noted bylaws are meant to set a standard for Calgarians to follow.

"It identifies to our citizens what is acceptable behaviour and what isn't and then we rely on them to comply."

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