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Alderman wants suite sales pitch



By katie turner | Metro – Mon, 17 Jan 12:52 AM EST

One Calgary alderman is asking the mayor to "sell" his proposal to legalize secondary suites to her constituents.

Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart has asked Mayor Naheed Nenshi to attend a town-hall meeting in her ward to discuss the issue.

Colley-Urquhart has been conducting an online survey to gauge Calgarians' thoughts on the issue.

"Quite frankly I was surprised by some of these results," she said.

The results after two days showed that of the more than 500 people surveyed, nearly 97 per cent said they care about the issue.

However, only 40 per cent said they were in favour of Nenshi's proposal, which would allow suites in single-family homes, provided they meet certain criteria.

Colley-Urquhart said that during a phone call with Nenshi, he agreed to attend a town-hall meeting.

"He's willing to go out and sell this, and I'm going to see how good of a salesman he is on this to convey this message," she said.

Nenshi said he is happy to meet with Calgarians to discuss the issue.

"I'm very confident that we're doing the right things for Calgarians but I'm still always happy to talk to more people about it," said Nenshi.

Ald. Jim Stevenson said he thinks it's too soon to conduct a town-hall meeting in his ward and would like to see Nenshi's proposal before making any decisions.

"I don't think it's time yet for a town hall until we have some proposal to put forward."

CP, 2011

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