

**Integrity and Ethics Office Report to  
Combined Meeting of Council  
2020 July 20**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
C2020-0706**

**Integrity and Ethics Office 2019 Annual Report**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Terms of Reference for the Ethics Advisor and the Integrity Commissioner approved by Council in July 2016 require the submission of an Annual Report to Council.

This is the fourth annual report on the activities of the City of Calgary Integrity and Ethics Office. It covers the 12-month period ending April 30, 2020.

**Integrity Commissioner and Ethics Advisor's Recommendation:**

That Council:

1. Receive the Annual Report of the Ethics Advisor and Integrity Commissioner for the Corporate Record.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY**

The Terms of Reference approved by Council in July 2016 require each of the Ethics Advisor and the Integrity Commissioner to publish "an annual report to provide Council and Calgarians with information about the activities of the Ethics Advisor and Integrity Commissioner during the preceding year" (M2016-0566).

**BACKGROUND**

**Work of the Integrity Commissioner**

As noted from the 2018-19 Annual Report, one matter remained outstanding from that reporting period. The Integrity Commissioner addressed the matter at Council on 2020 May 11.

During the period May 1 2019 to April 30 2020, eight new files were opened. Two remain outstanding. One was referred to PwC as it was necessary for the Integrity Commissioner to recuse himself and the other is in limbo as it raises an issue which will require a review of the relationship between Council and a City organization.

As in the past, the complaints may be broken down into two broad categories. The first was dismissed as the matter raised was in essence a ballot box issue. The complainant simply did not like an action taken by a Councillor. The second involved social media and was dismissed. It did however raise an important issue, namely blocking. This issue raises Charter considerations which, in the view of the Integrity Commissioner, are more properly dealt with by the courts. That being said, this issue is also being addressed by the Ethics Advisor from a policy perspective and will likely be the subject matter of additional discussion.

Again, most of the matters that the Integrity Commissioner adjudicated were resolved by discussions. It has been the Integrity Commissioner's practice to, whenever possible, find a solution by discussion rather than adjudication. By so doing, both sides were engaged to better understand each other and hopefully restore confidence in the minds of the public in our elected officials.

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**Work of the Ethics Advisor**

Throughout the reporting period the Ethics Advisor provided advice to Members of Council on a confidential basis.

Emily Laidlaw began as Ethics Advisor in April 2019. The position was empty for several months prior, with the departure of the former Ethics Advisor, Alice Woolley, in November 2018. From May – August 2019 the Ethics Advisor’s work involved two streams: (1) providing advice to Councillors in response to a backlog of consultation requests; (2) consulting individually with Councillors, various City staff and representatives from other municipal integrity offices in the development of policy.

From September – December 2019, the Ethics Advisor’s work primarily focused on meeting with City staff and Councillors in resolving specific disputes and to address public concerns, and consultation regarding policy amendments.

From January – April 2020, the Ethics Advisor prepared and provided guidance to Council on specific topics of concern. The Ethics Advisor drafted amendments to the *Code of Conduct for Elected Officials Bylaw*, which were reviewed by the Coordinating Committee of the Councillor’s Office at their June 2020 meeting, and began drafting a social media policy and engaged in related consultation.

**INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS**

N/A

**Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication**

N/A

**Strategic Alignment**

N/A

**Social, Environmental, Economic (External)**

N/A

**Financial Capacity**

N/A

***Current and Future Operating Budget:***

N/A

***Current and Future Capital Budget:***

N/A

**Risk Assessment**

N/A

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**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

That the Annual Report of the Ethics Advisor and Integrity Commissioner be read and received.

**ATTACHMENT**

None