



**Report Number:** C2020-0263

**Meeting:** Combined Meeting of Council

**Meeting Date:** 2020 February 24

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### **RE: Closing the Governance Gap in Office of the Councillors Efforts at Public Disclosure**

**Sponsoring Councillor(s):** J. Gondek, J. Davison, W. Sutherland, J. Farkas, S. Keating, S. Chu, G-C. Carra, P. Demong, D. Farrell, D. Colley-Urquhart, E. Woolley, R. Jones, G. Chahal, Mayor Nenshi

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#### WHEREAS:

- Establishing and maintaining public trust is a primary goal for the City of Calgary, both as a government and corporation;
- Ongoing efforts at transparency and accountability include better oversight and governance where possible;
- Presently, the Coordinating Committee of the Councillors' Office (CCCO) is in a situation where it has been assigned responsibility to oversee some of the policies and practices that govern Council actions;
- Some oversight matters presently managed by CCCO may be better served by an external party to Council, for greater transparency and to alleviate issues of conflict for Council members who serve on CCCO; and
- The public has raised questions that must be addressed immediately to settle the matters related to the Ward 2 Councillor, his expense claims from the 2019 FCM conference in Quebec City, and the public statement released by the City of Calgary Integrity Commissioner.

#### NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- In order to address the issue of Ward 2 expense claim discrepancies, Council direct the City Auditor:
  - to immediately conduct a forensic investigation into the Ward 2 City Councillor's expenses (including those incurred at FCM) to the beginning of the present Council's term in office,
  - to be funded through the Fiscal Stability Reserve (FSR), and
  - to be conducted by a specialist (internal or external) under the direct oversight of the City Auditor's Office in order to ensure independence, objectivity and an unbiased result, with recommendations to be presented to Council as soon as possible;
- In order to objectively and cost-effectively demonstrate adherence to expense policies by all members of Council (including the Mayor), Council direct the City Auditor to immediately determine and execute the best way to verify expenses for all ward council offices and Mayor's Office budgets for the present Council's term in office, to identify whether individual or systemic issues exist that require further attention;
- In order to make all event related expenses easily available to the public (similar to the publicly posted Ward Office expenses), Council direct the Chief Financial Officer to immediately determine and execute the best way to make all centrally disclosed expenses for Councillors and Administration (e.g. FCM,

AUMA, Grey Cup, etc.) publically accessible going back to the beginning of the present Council's term in office; and

- In order to address the governance gap that exists in some matters of Council oversight, Council direct the City Manager to work with the City Auditor and other appropriate parties to determine a better governance model for Council oversight that either enhances and/or replaces some processes or responsibilities presently residing with the CCCO to eliminate conflicts of interest for members of Council and ensure that staff within the Office of the Councillors are able to act independently of Council, with recommendations to be presented to Council as soon as possible.