

**Integrity and Ethics Office Report to  
Combined Meeting of Council  
2021 July 26**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
C2021-1146  
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## **Integrity and Ethics Annual Report**

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

That Council receive the Annual Report of the Ethics Advisor and Integrity Commissioner for the Corporate Record.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- 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 fifth annual report on the activities of the City of Calgary Integrity and Ethics Office. It covers the 12-month period ending April 30, 2021.
- What does this mean to Calgarians? Why does it matter? The Ethics Advisor and the Integrity Commissioner 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).
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Citizen Priorities: A well-run city

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Work of the Integrity Commissioner**

During the annual reporting period of May 1 2020 to April 30 2021, the previous Integrity Commissioner departed in June 2020 and the position was vacant for several months until the current Integrity Commissioner began in December 2020. Her first few months were focused on addressing complaints that were received during the vacancy, together with current complaints as they were received.

During the reporting period of May to April, a total of 115 complaints were received relating to 39 separate incidents. Of the 39 files, five involved multiple complaints, hence the total of 115 complaints (one incident skews the numbers as there were over 60 complaints). Of the 39 files, 28 have been closed, relating to 94 complaints. 11 files remain open and ongoing.

The complaints may be broken down into three broad categories. The first category involves complaints that were not within the Integrity Commissioner's authority to address and were dismissed. The vast majority of these were complaints that were political rather than ethical: essentially ballot box issues, where the complainant did not agree with an action taken by a Councillor.

The second category involved complaints about councillors' behaviour and communications both verbally and online. Most of these have been resolved through discussion or dismissed as not amounting to a breach of the *Code of Conduct for Elected Officials* or other policies. One matter resulted in a report to Council in May, 2021.

The third category is unique to this year and relates to election campaign activities. Most of these have been resolved through discussion or dismissed as not amounting to a breach of the campaigning rules in the *Code*.

### **Work of the Ethics Advisor**

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Throughout the reporting period the Ethics Advisor provided advice to Members of Council on a confidential basis and supported their offices in complying with the Code of Conduct Bylaw. From June 2020 – December 2020 when the office of the Integrity Commissioner was vacant, additional support was provided, where appropriate, to address and resolve complaints.

In addition to the above, during the reporting period the Ethics Advisor undertook three primary types of work. First, the Ethics Advisor chaired the Expense Policy Working Group, which supported Council in its reform of its expense policies. Second, the Ethics Advisor undertook two rounds of reforms to the Code of Conduct Bylaw and worked to develop best practices in interpretation and advice, including concerning social media use. Third, in preparation for the election, the Ethics Advisor led multiple education sessions with Councillors and their staff, including meeting individually with Councillors and/or their staff to prepare for compliance with the election rules in the Code of Conduct Bylaw. Additionally, the Ethics Advisor led an education session on social media ethics.

At all times, the Ethics Advisor worked closely with Councillors and the Mayor, members of Coordinating Committee of Councillors' Office and City staff, as appropriate, to support Members of Council.

### **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION (EXTERNAL)**

- Public Engagement was undertaken
- Public Communication or Engagement was not required
- Public/Stakeholders were informed
- Stakeholder dialogue/relations were undertaken