

Remote Participation in Council and Council Committee Meetings

Integrity and Ethics Office

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Objective of *Code of Conduct* Amendments

To facilitate remote participation by Members of Council in appropriate circumstances.

To provide certainty about the circumstances when remote participation is ethically permissible.

To provide oversight through the Integrity and Ethics Office.

To clarify the rules for remote participation in closed meetings.

Procedure Bylaw (changes underlined)

29.1 A Member may on occasion participate in Council or Council Committee meetings remotely, in accordance with the procedures set out in Appendix F.

F.1 (a) A Member may on occasion participate remotely in a Council or Council Committee meeting provided they are in an appropriate and secure location free from distractions with their camera on and no background used.

(b) Best efforts must be used to participate in Council or Council Committee meetings, including Closed Meetings, in person conforming with the Code of Conduct for Elected Officials Bylaw (26M2018). Compliance is overseen by the Integrity and Ethics Office.

F.8 Remote participation is permitted in Closed Meetings provided a Member is in a private and secure location free from distractions with their camera on and no background used.

Code of Conduct Bylaw (new provision)

11.1 (1) All Members must use best efforts to participate in Council and Council committee meetings in person. However, remote participation may occur in exceptional circumstances, where participation in person is impossible or impractical, including:

- (a) Urgent personal or medical matters; or
- (b) When out of town for the purpose of City business.

(2) A Member must keep a record of their reasons for participating remotely, which must be disclosed to the Integrity Commissioner upon request.