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Dear Corporate Services Committee, Chair and Members c/o Linda Rowe:

It's great to live in a city that has so many wonderful community organizations that work towards building events and programs that enhance the lives of so many people. It's great that City Hall has a number of ways to offer support to these organizations so that they can continue to provide these events and programs.

However, in the early part of 2014, I became aware of several ways that previous London City Councillors were using taxpayers' dollars – through their Councillor Expense Funds – to support specific groups of their own choice and I totally disagree with these actions. The purpose of this letter is to shed light onto this issue so that amendments can be made to the guidelines outlining how Councillors are allowed to use their Expense Funds.

Throughout my investigation into this matter, I became aware of many instances where Councillors were using their Expense Funds to support organizations of their choice and this gave me reason to pause and wonder at their true intentions. There was one report showing how a Councillor used their Expense Funds to support someone's retirement bbq. There were several reports showing how other Councillors used their Expense Funds to support specific church festivities. This list could go on... but I think that my point has been made.

In August of 2014 I submitted a letter of similar nature to this one, suggesting that the guidelines for this topic be amended. This is an excerpt from that letter - "Community organizations should be allowed to request City support and I fully support the use of taxpayers dollars within a forum where all Councillors are allowed to make these decisions. However, allowing City Councillors to support or sponsor community events of their choice creates a battlefield based on favouritism and this is just wrong in so many ways. I request that this particular guideline be amended so that Councillors cannot use taxpayers' money to support community events."

The outcome from my previous effort was far from satisfactory. My letter and suggestion was simply 'noted and filed' with absolutely no discussion ensuing and consequently no action taking place. I'm trusting that the new chair and members of this term's Corporate Services Committee will act in a more responsible manner in regards to the subject matter of this letter.

I am requesting that this letter be placed on the Corporate Services Committee agenda.

Please acknowledge the receipt of this letter and please keep me updated with the results of this issue after it has been presented to the Corporate Services Committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jim Kogelheide