

Integrity Commissioner's Report

DATE: August 15, 2017

TO: The Mayor and Council

FROM: Gregory F. Stewart
Integrity Commissioner

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER
May 17, 2016 to August 1st, 2017

REPORT:

I was appointed Integrity Commissioner for the City of London commencing on May 17, 2016 and ending on May 31st, 2019. This report covers the period from my appointment to August 1st, 2017, which is slightly more than one year.

Pursuant to my agreement with the City, I am to perform generally the following duties:

1. Advisory – to confidentially provide written and/or verbal advice to individual members of Council respecting the application of the Code of Conduct including concerns related to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. In addition, where appropriate, to provide to the Council specific and general advice regarding the Code, governing statutes and other applicable rules, procedures and policies.
2. Compliance, Investigation – Upon receiving a complaint to assess the validity of the complaint and, where applicable and within the Integrity Commissioner's jurisdiction, to investigate alleged contraventions of the Code of Conduct identified in the complaint.
3. Inquiry under Section 223.4 of the Municipal Act – Upon proper request, if applicable in the circumstances, to initiate an inquiry under Subsection 223.4 of the Municipal Act and make a determination as to an alleged contravention of the Code of Conduct and report the results of such inquiry to Council.
4. Reporting – To file an annual report to the municipal council.
5. Educational - To provide outreach programs to members of council and local boards regarding relevant legislation and protocols where warranted.

Educational Requests

I received no specific requests for education during the reporting period. With the advent of amendments to the Municipal Act, and specifically the amendments related to the office of the Integrity Commissioner and its jurisdiction and Codes of Conduct, it is expected that over the next reporting period, it may be appropriate to speak with members of Council and local boards concerning the impact of these amendments and perhaps regarding potential housekeeping amendments to the Code of Conduct.

Advice Requests

During the reporting period, I received 18 requests from members of Council. Most of these requests for advice concerned potential conflicts of interest. In each case, confidential advice was given to the Councillor either verbally or in writing, as requested.

Public Requests

I received email and telephone contact from members of the public asking about the Code of Conduct in general. Where appropriate, I provided general information and direction as to how to access the Code of Conduct to determine the process involved in a complaint. In doing so, I did not assist individuals in filing complaints.

Complaints Requesting an Investigation

During the reporting period, I received fourteen (14) complaints requesting investigation. Of these complaints I summarily dismissed twelve (12) without an investigation based on the fact that they either appeared politically motivated or that the complainant did not fully understand my jurisdiction as Integrity Commissioner and the complaint did not fall under my jurisdiction. In each case I provided a written response to the complainant regarding their request and my reasons for not pursuing it.

Of the other two (2) complaints, one (1) dealt with the issues related to the Mayor and Deputy-Mayor which were the subject to my report to Council dated June 21st, 2016. The second concerned a complaint regarding the conduct of a Councillor at a committee meeting. I conducted a review and investigation and having done so concluded that this did not constitute a contravention of the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct prescribes that other than in

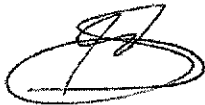
exceptional circumstances, in these cases, I am not to report to Council. In this case, I did not report to Council but I did provide a written summary to the complainant and the Councillor concerning the basis for my decision.

There are no complaints under active investigation at this time.

Conclusion

As an Integrity Commissioner, I participate in the meetings of the Municipal Integrity Commissioners of Ontario (MICO) which is quite helpful in defining and discussing the pertinent issues that come before an Integrity Commissioner.

Respectively submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Stewart', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Gregory F. Stewart
Integrity Commissioner City of London