



March 10, 2022

Mayor and Members of Council
City of Brampton
2 Wellington Street West
Brampton, ON

SENT VIA EMAIL: city.clerksoffice@brampton.ca

Dear Mayor Brown and Members of Council:

Re: AGENDA ITEM 5.1 Discussion re. the Integrity Commissioner and Lobbyist Registrar positions

It has come to my attention that you intend on terminating your contract with the City of Brampton Integrity Commissioner, while she is in the process of considering complaints against one, or some, member(s) of city council.

As you know, I have filed a complaint against Councillor Fortini, for what I believe is a conflict of interest. The ultimate penalty for a councillor found to have contravened the Act is to be removed from office. Voting to fire, remove, or terminate the person investigating you is a conflict of interest, if ever there was one.

I strongly urge those of you who have complaints against them, and/or current investigations, to declare a pecuniary interest in the matter or risk having a further complaint filed by myself and/or other taxpayers.

Last year, councillor Gurpreet Dillon was ordered by a judge to pay cost, in the sum of \$20,000, to the Integrity Commissioner after his unsuccessful judicial review of her investigation and findings. If this sum of money is still outstanding, then he may have a pecuniary interest that should be declared at the start of the meeting.

This letter is such that you may not be able to rely on the defense of "inadvertence", or an "error in judgment made in good faith", if you do not seek independent legal advice or advice from the Integrity Commissioner. Section 223.1 of the Municipal Act it is clear. You have the right to seek advice from the integrity commissioner in writing on this issue. If you feel that there will be an apprehension of bias, you can also get independent legal advice.

You know, or ought to know, this already. But this letter is an additional reminder.

The core principal of an integrity commissioner is independence from political interference. That is why a 2/3 voting rule existed. It prevented the code of conduct process, and those councillors in the minority, from the tyranny of the majority. Your policy change undermines this important principal. I believe it is wrong-headed and suspect.

If you feel that the Integrity Commissioner has overcharged or overbilled the taxpayers of Brampton then there is another avenue available to you.

Simply tax her account with the Law Society of Upper Canada. It will allow you to specify the ways in which you believe Brampton was overcharged, and retrieve the funds on behalf of taxpayers. On the other hand, if you slander and libel the first Muslim Integrity Commissioner, you will be sued and taxpayers will again be on the hook.

I listened with interest as Brampton City Councillors debated the costs of the Integrity Commissioner over the past three years. The \$900,000 plus amount paid to the Integrity Commissioner is equal to the three year cost of each member of council. What a coincidence.

Please consider this letter in making your determination. I have sent it to the City Clerk to be included as correspondence on the agenda of the special council meeting called for March 11, 2022.

I have sent it individually to each member of council so they can declare their pecuniary interest at the start of the council meeting.

Thank you for your consideration in advance.

Sincerely,

Cody Vatcher
Brampton Resident

CC: MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

ATTACH:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cody Vatcher', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

223.3 (1) Without limiting sections 9, 10 and 11, those sections authorize the municipality to appoint an Integrity Commissioner who reports to council and who is responsible for performing in an independent manner the functions assigned by the municipality with respect to any or all of the following:

1. The application of the code of conduct for members of council and the code of conduct for members of local boards.
2. The application of any procedures, rules and policies of the municipality and local boards governing the ethical behaviour of members of council and of local boards.
3. The application of sections 5, 5.1 and 5.2 of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* to members of council and of local boards.
4. Requests from members of council and of local boards for advice respecting their obligations under the code of conduct applicable to the member.
5. Requests from members of council and of local boards for advice respecting their obligations under a procedure, rule or policy of the municipality or of the local board, as the case may be, governing the ethical behaviour of members.
6. Requests from members of council and of local boards for advice respecting their obligations under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.
7. The provision of educational information to members of council, members of local boards, the municipality and the public about the municipality's codes of conduct for members of council and members of local boards and about the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*. 2017, c. 10, Sched. 1, s. 19 (1).