

Integrity Commissioner Report Regarding Use of Social Media

Date: July 5, 2016
To: City Council
From: Valerie Jepson, Integrity Commissioner
Wards: All

SUMMARY

On April 26, 2016, the Integrity Commissioner filed a Report Regarding Use of Social Media and recommended that City Council receive the report for information (Item CC18.9). Among other things, the Report appended an Interpretation Bulletin to guide members of Council when using social media.

City Council voted to defer Item CC 18.9 to the July 2016 City Council meeting.

The Integrity Commissioner has prepared the attached slide deck and is available make a presentation to Council to summarize the advice contained in the Interpretation Bulletin for members of Council should it assist Council.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This report will have no financial impact on the City of Toronto.

DECISION HISTORY

At its February 2014 meeting, City Council considered policy recommendations by the Integrity Commissioner about use of social media in the 2014 Municipal Election. City Council accepted some of the recommendations of the Integrity Commissioner, approved a modified policy for the election, and requested that the Commissioner return with recommendations for a general social media policy after the election.
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.CC48.7>.

In response to Council's February 2014 direction, in April 2016 the Integrity Commissioner filed a Report Regarding Use of Social Media. As explained in the April 2016 Report, the codes of conduct for members of Council, local boards (restricted definition), and adjudicative boards are written in broad terms, allowing their principles to be applied and adapted to a variety of situations and circumstances. The codes of

conduct, in combination with the City's established policies, are sufficient to adequately guide members' use of social media. Although clarification is necessary, a new policy framework is not required. In order to provide clarification the Commissioner prepared specific guidance in the form of interpretation bulletins.

The Integrity Commissioner does not ordinarily report to City Council when issuing interpretation bulletins but did so in this case in fulfillment of the February 2014 Council direction. The guidance is in place.

City Council deferred its decision to receive the report until the July 2016 meeting.
<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.CC18.9>

COMMENTS

To address questions about how the guidance applies to members of Council, the Integrity Commissioner has prepared the attached slide deck and is available to make a presentation should it assist members.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Valerie Jepson
Integrity Commissioner

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Slide deck: Use of Social Media by Members of Council
Attachment 2: Interpretation Bulletin Use of Social Media for Members of Council