



OFFICE OF THE
**INTEGRITY
COMMISSIONER**
TORONTO

EX2.5.23

Valerie Jepson

Integrity Commissioner

375 University Ave., Suite 202

Toronto, ON M5G 2J5

416-397-7770 | Valerie.Jepson@toronto.ca

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Sent via Email: councilmeeting@toronto.ca (No Original to Follow)

Marilyn Toft
Manager, Council Secretariat Support
City of Toronto
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. W., 12th Floor, West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Ms. Toft:

**Re: EX.2.5 – 2019 Capital and Operating Budget
Office of the Integrity Commissioner - 2019 Budget**

I wish for this letter to be included on the City Council agenda regarding the above-noted matter.

I am writing to respectfully request that City Council consider approving the total recommended operating budget for the Office of the Integrity Commissioner (OIC).

Along with my fellow accountability officers, I presented the recommended budget for the OIC to Budget Committee. The recommended OIC Budget included a \$190,000 fund for external legal and investigative services to be used for complex investigations, high volumes of work and necessary legal representation if I am required to take a *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* matter to Court. There is an acute need for the OIC to be able to access these kinds of services efficiently so that it can fulfill its duties resulting from recent amendments to the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*. I have referred to these enhancements as contingency-based because they will only be deployed when necessary to respond to the listed scenarios. Please find more information about my recommendation and the reasons for it in [my report to Budget Committee](#).

The enhancement request was accounted for in the overall City budget, but it was reversed when the Budget Committee considered the matter. I have not been provided with any reason or rationale for this decision.

My term as Integrity Commissioner ends in September 2019. I am writing directly to City Council today in order to be sure that I have done all that I can to clearly state the needs of the OIC with the objective *only* of protecting and enhancing the institution of the OIC. It is my sincere hope – one which I assume all members of Council share – that the incoming Integrity Commissioner will be properly equipped to carry out the new duties and will not be faced with a high backlog of open matters, as has been the case in the past. In my submission, the modest contingency-based recommendation that I have made is a reasonable and prudent response to significant statutory changes and is accordingly in the public interest.

I would be pleased to address any questions you may have.

Yours truly,



Valerie Jepson
Integrity Commissioner

cc. Members of City Council (via Email)
Fellow Accountability Officers (via Email)