

## **Updating the Council Member-Organized Community Events Policy**

**Date:** December 3, 2021

**To:** Executive Committee

**From:** Jonathan Batty, Integrity Commissioner

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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The Integrity Commissioner provides advice on policy matters dealing with issues of ethics and integrity for members of Council under the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* and Chapter 3 of the Toronto Municipal Code.

Pursuant to the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, Council may adopt policies that govern the activities of its members. The Council Member-Organized Community Events Policy governs how and when members may obtain donations for their community events. It was adopted by Council in 2008.

A public health emergency was declared in March 2020 and, as a result, in-person community events have been either prohibited or discouraged for public safety purposes until now. The upcoming year, 2022, is an election year. The current policy prohibits members from seeking any donations for their community events in an election year if they have not held a similar event in the previous two years. The current policy does not account for the fact that in-person community events could not be held for most of the last two years.

The current policy includes a \$10,000 cap on donations a member may receive each year. It should be updated because the size of Wards and the number of constituents per Ward almost doubled when the size of Council was reduced in 2018.

The Integrity Commissioner recommends that Council update the Council Member-Organized Community Events Policy to address these matters.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Integrity Commissioner recommends that:

1. City Council amend the Council Member-Organized Community Events Policy as follows:

- a. the prohibition that “in an election year, a Member of Council must not seek donations and sponsorships for any community event that has not been staged in the previous two years” not be applied to the 2022 election year; as a consequence, for this election year only, there would be no requirement to have held a similar community event in prior years; and
- b. the per member cap on all donations received in a calendar year for community events be increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000 in recognition of the fact that the size of Wards nearly doubled in 2018.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are no financial implications arising from the adoption of this report.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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EX22.8 *Report on Issues Arising Out of Operation of Members Code of Conduct and Complaint Protocol* adopted by Council with amendments on July 15, 2008.

<https://bit.ly/3GdfZmH>

## **COMMENTS**

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The accounting procedures in the associated accounting policy, *Donations to Member of Council Organized Community Events Policy#: ASP.0058.00 (Mar 20, 2018)*, are not affected by these updates.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Jonathan Batty  
Integrity Commissioner