

**Statement at Council  
by Speaker Frances Nunziata**

To be delivered at the meeting of July 24-25, 2024

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Deputy Speaker,

I've prepared a Statement in response to the Integrity Commissioner's investigation, and I would like to read it out now.

I cannot overstate my deep and sincere regret that a breach of the Code of Conduct for Members of Council has been found to have occurred in my office. Without reservations, and regardless of the circumstances that led to the breach, I take full and complete responsibility, and accept the findings of the Integrity Commissioner's report and recommendations.

All steps that need to be taken will be taken, and are being taken, to ensure that such a breach does not happen again.

2.

In my 36 years as an elected official, this has been the first time I have had a formal interaction with the Integrity Commissioner's office. The investigative process has been professional, thorough, accommodating, and fair. Throughout all my years as an elected official, I have always demonstrated respect for and adherence to the Code of Conduct.

On becoming aware of a complaint by the Integrity Commissioner, I immediately sought an explanation and clarity from my staff as to whether constituent email addresses from our database were shared with the campaign.

At no time, did I instruct nor approve the use of these emails for the campaign and as I was assured that it was not the case, I conveyed the same to the Integrity Commissioner. I provided the Integrity Commissioner with the best information I had at the time when this matter was first brought to my attention.

3.

I want to apologize to the Integrity Commissioner for having to direct considerable resources to determine that a breach of the Code of Conduct occurred. I say to the Integrity Commissioner and to all Councillors, city staff and the public, that it was never my intention to misinform them at the outset of the investigation.

It was a significant error of judgment on the part of my staff not to have advised me that indeed emails were used inappropriately and not to explain the details relating to the inappropriate use.

While I am grateful that my staff were cooperative, forthright and truthful with the Integrity Commissioner in the end, I agree that had this information become known far earlier in the process it would have reduced the amount of time and resources needed for this investigation.

With respect to the conduct of my staff in this matter, I have sought the advice and guidance of the City Clerk.

4.

On the breach that was found to have occurred, I sincerely apologize to my Council colleagues. The Code of Conduct is fundamental and guides our actions, and that of our staff, to uphold the integrity, accountability and professional conduct expected of our constituents.

I apologize to the complainant and anyone else who received unsolicited campaign emails for the misuse of their information and apologize to all my constituents and assure them that all steps are being taken, so that both myself and my staff, are crystal clear on the provisions of the Code of Conduct respecting election campaigns and that they are followed at all times.

Again, I thank the Integrity Commissioner for this report. Both myself and others involved have learned from this mistake and will ensure it does not happen again.

Thank you.