

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, June 21, 2022

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: OFFICE OF THE INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER AND LOBBYIST REGISTRAR ANNUAL REPORT, JANUARY – DECEMBER 2021

FROM:

Suzanne Craig, Integrity Commissioner and Lobbyist Registrar

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

Under Part B of the Complaint Protocol for the Vaughan Council Code Ethical of Conduct (the “Code”), the Integrity Commissioner shall submit periodic reports to Council setting out the activities of the Office, all complaints received and on their disposition.

Report Highlights

- The Integrity Commissioner and Lobbyist Registrar is a statutory office with direct reporting to Council.
- The Office of the Integrity Commissioner and Lobbyist Registrar applies the Code standards to the actions and behavior of Members of Council and monitors the communications of lobbyists with public office holders.
- The Code and the Mandatory Lobbyist Registry provide the basis for good governance with the municipal government of the City of Vaughan. The clear and consistent application of the rules and the reporting by the Integrity Commissioner and Lobbyist Registrar provide the public with a snapshot of the compliance by Members of Council with adherence to the ethical rules during their term of office.

Recommendation

1. That this report be received for information.

Background

This report covers the reporting period January to December 2021. The Annual Report sets out the Office's activities and decisions over the 2021 year.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Office of the Integrity Commissioner and Lobbyist Registrar Annual Report January 2019 - June 2020](#)

[Annual Report January 2019 - June 2020](#)

Analysis and Options

In respect of the activities of the Office of the Lobbyist Registrar, in this reporting year there were no investigations conducted but several individuals contacted the Office to discuss whether they were required to register their communications that took place with elected officials and other Public Office Holders. These queries reflected the fact that the City of Vaughan continues to work towards a continuous improvement and accountability through the understanding of what the mandatory lobbyist regime entails. This Office has identified that there is a need for further education on the rules of the Mandatory Lobbyist Registry regime to inform individuals and businesses of the mandatory registry rules and review best practices in other municipal and provincial jurisdictions that may be adopted in the City of Vaughan.

Financial Impact

N/A

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

N/A

Conclusion

The Office of the Integrity Commissioner and Lobbyist Registrar's operational strategy over this reporting year has been to prioritize the detection and deterrence efforts against activity that would significantly undermine the public trust in municipal government ethical decision-making. Working with members of the public and Members' staff, a significant amount of work of this Office in this reporting year has been dedicated to responding to Members' formal and informal requests for advice and identifying possible Code breaches

prior to them occurring. With this strategic focus on facilitating compliance, the Office has continued its strong mandate of proactive consultation with Members, their staff and the public, with a view to encouraging interaction, dialogue and understanding of the day to day application of the rules of the Code and Lobbying By-law.

For more information, please contact: Suzanne Craig, Integrity Commissioner and Lobbyist Registrar, suzanne.craig@vaughan.ca

Attachments

1. Integrity Commissioner and Lobbyist Registrar Annual Report, January – December 2021

Prepared by

Suzanne Craig, Integrity Commissioner and Lobbyist Registrar ext: 8301

Approved by



Suzanne Craig
Integrity Commissioner and Lobbyist Registrar