

**DATE:** February 16, 2023

**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council

**FROM:** Wendy Law, Deputy City Manager, Legal and Administrative Services & City Solicitor

**RE:** **COMMUNICATION – Council, February 16, 2023**

**Committee Report No. 7, Item No. 10**

**PROTECTING THE PEOPLE: VAUGHAN PUBLIC SAFETY**

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**Recommendation**

That this communication be received for information.

**Background**

On February 7, 2023, Committee of the Whole directed Legal Services to provide additional information as contained in Local and Regional Councillor Mario Racco's Member Resolution that sought Council's support to ask for legislative changes by the provincial and federal governments in response to the tragic shooting at the Bellaria Residences condominium tower on December 18, 2022.

From earlier discussions, it is our understanding that Councillor Racco would like to seek greater powers for the police when dealing with concerns raised by condominium board members. As such, options were discussed for suggestions to upper levels of government on legislative changes, including potential amendments to the provincial *Courts of Justice Act* and federal *Firearms Act*.

**Provincial Courts of Justice Act**

The provincial *Courts of Justice Act* is provincial legislation that governs the composition, practice and procedure of all provincial courts in Ontario.

We know from the litigation involving Mr. Villi that was ongoing at the time of the incident that the Condominium Board was in the process of having a Motion heard by the Court to impose sanctions against Mr. Villi.

In discussion with Councillor Racco's office, the Member's Resolution recommends that our provincial partners provide for an expedited process such that a Motion for sanctions against an individual for threatening/harassing behaviour (in our case against members of the Condominium Board) be heard within thirty ("30") days.

## **Federal Firearms Act**

The federal *Firearms Act* provides for a process whereby the federal Chief Firearms Officer receives a request from police that an individual with a valid firearms license who has made threats should have their license revoked as they no longer meet the requirements to hold the license. The Chief Firearms Officer can then decide to revoke the license.

For example, currently under the *Firearms Act*, in determining whether a person is eligible to hold a licence, one of the considerations is whether there is a “history of behaviour that includes violence or threatened or attempted violence or threatening conduct on the part of the person against any person”.

However, there is no timeline set out in the *Firearms Act* for the Chief Firearms Officer to make their decision. Given that time is of the essence when dealing with threats made by an individual that has a license, in discussion with Councillor Racco's office, the Member's Resolution is now revised to recommend a timeline of thirty (“30”) days from the report by police to a decision by the federal Chief Firearms Officer on revocation.

For more information, contact Maurice Benzaquen, Legal Counsel – Litigation, x. 8086

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Law  
Deputy City Manager  
Legal and Administrative Services & City Solicitor