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OFFICE OF THE INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

September 23, 2019

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Suzanne Craig, Integrity Commissioner

I am submitting this status update report to Council pursuant to section 27.1 of City of Barrie Council and Committee Member Code of Conduct (the "Code"). Section 27.1. This provision of the Code states that:

27.1 Upon completion of an investigation, the Integrity Commissioner shall report to the complainant and the member on the results of his or her review within ninety days of receiving a complete Complaint Form/Affidavit. If the investigation process is going to take more than ninety days, the Integrity Commissioner shall provide an interim report to the complainant and member indicating when the complete report will be available.

I submit this report for information and receipt by Council.

Background:

Upon receipt of a Formal Code Complaint, the Integrity Commissioner conducts a preliminary review of the complaint to determine if the matter is, on its face, a complaint with respect to noncompliance with the Code. If during the preliminary review, the Integrity Commissioner finds that the complaint, including the supporting affidavit and/or supporting documentation and materials, is not, on its face, a complaint with respect to noncompliance with the Code or the complaint is covered by other legislation or complaint procedure under another Council policy, or that there are no or insufficient grounds to being an investigation, the Integrity Commissioner, is required to advise the complainant in writing, of this decision.

From May 2019 to July 2019, this Office has received 15 (fifteen) Formal Complaints, which is an unprecedentedly high number of complaints for such a period of two months. The objective of a Code complaint investigation is to discover facts upon which to make a decision on whether a Member has contravened the Code rules so that if it is found that the Member has contravened the rules, they receive an appropriate penalty or remedial actions is recommended. The purpose-driven function of the Complaint Protocol allows the Integrity Commissioner the discretion to decide not to commence an investigation because she is in possession of sufficient

information to make a determination or discontinue an investigation where it becomes apparent that there are insufficient grounds to continue.

Some of the complaints that were received were filed anonymously, and as such could not be Addressed. Through the Formal Complaint process. Other complaints have had as their subject, matters that raised issues that are more appropriately addressed together in one investigation. Finally, notwithstanding the fact that some complaints were initially deemed matters with respect to noncompliance with the Code, subsequently pursuant to section 25.6, upon review, the complaints, were discontinued on the basis of insufficient grounds to continue an investigation.

Integrity Commissioner Reporting:

Based on the status of the current Code complaints, I anticipate that the outstanding reports will be tabled at the October 28, 2019 Council meeting.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Craig
Integrity Commissioner