

Request for Council's Consideration



Included on Agenda
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)

Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)

Request from the Floor

Date of Council Meeting: November 14, 2017

Subject: Review of Administrative Order 52: Code of Conduct for Elected Officials

Motion for Council to Consider:

That Regional Council request a staff report on a review of Administrative Order 52: Code of Conduct for Elected Officials to include, but not be limited to, consideration of:

1. Requirement for an annual review, discussion and signing of the document by elected officials.
2. Review section IV Member Responsibilities, specifically regarding 13. Interpersonal Behaviour and 14. Community Representation, to provide clear and unambiguous expectations.
3. Periodic review of Administrative Order 52 (i.e.: every 4 years) for consideration of potential amendments
4. Ask the Province to provide an update of the 2016 request to initiate legislative changes to the HRM Charter allowing for the ability to censure Members of Council by remitting remuneration for violations to AO 52, Code of Conduct for Municipal Officials.
5. Creation of an Integrity Commissioner position for HRM to conduct the investigation and provide a report to Regional Council once a breach of Administrative Order 52 has been reported.

Reason:

To review Administrative Order 52 with consideration of implementing the amendments noted above.

The cities of **Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, ON**, have an Integrity Commissioner who investigates reports of a breach of their Code of Conduct. Once the investigation is

completed, the Integrity Commissioner provides a report to Regional Council with the findings.

If a breach has been confirmed to have occurred, some cities have strengthened the repercussions to include suspension or reduction of remuneration for up to 90 days as part of the possible reprimands.

Edmonton, AB recently passed legislation to create a Code of Conduct By-Law for elected officials and is to include, as an option for reprimand, the suspension or reduction in remuneration corresponding to a reduction in duties, excluding allowances for attendance at council meetings.

Calgary, AB has an Integrity and Ethics Office that review their policy on an annual basis to ensure it reflects governing legislation as well as other legal enactments and relevant case law.

Vancouver, BC has included a section where a Council Official alleges a breach of the Code of Conduct by a fellow Council Official, all Council Officials shall refrain from commenting on such allegations at meetings of Council.

Outcome Sought:

The redesign of AO 52: Code of Conduct so that it clearly describes the manner in which Council members should treat one another, Municipal staff, constituents, and others they come into contact with in representing HRM. The Code of Conduct should reflect the work of the HRM Council while defining more clearly the behavior, manners, and courtesies that are suitable for various occasions. The constant and consistent theme through all the conduct guidelines should be "respect."

Councillor Tony Mancini

District 6
Harbourview – Burnside – Dartmouth East