

Report from the Integrity Commissioner
- Code of Conduct Complaint Against
Councillor Stolte (CL-16-22)

From: [REDACTED] Leslie Barbetta
To: [Mailbox, Clerks](#)
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Subject: Written comments for file CL-16-22
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Good morning

I do not intend to address the specific details of this file because all this news broke early Thursday before a long weekend when many folks were busy with other plans. As a result, the public has had very little time to absorb the entirety of the contents of this file. Further, requests to delegate are due by noon the day before the meeting. Given the City's holiday schedule, does that mean the public had only a few hours' window to understand all this information and then register to delegate? That's either very deliberate or very flawed, or both.

Regrettably, I cannot delegate on camera anyway due to previous commitments, so I would like to go on record here as saying I support Councillor Stolte. I don't profess to have a deep understanding of all the rules Council is expected to adhere to, nor do I have the time. What I do know is that we asked this Council to be transparent. Lack of transparency leads to speculation and distrust. I expect my Councillor to act in the best interests of the people that he or she was elected to serve, and to also be accountable, collaborative, intelligent, sympathetic, and have integrity. If there is a deviation from the rules (knowingly or otherwise) to uphold those attributes, I imagine I would be supportive under a range of circumstances.

I understand the need for confidentiality on sensitive issues, but it appears to me that some members of Council made a proverbial mountain out of a molehill; there was an opportunity to address this situation in a healthier, more productive manner - why was that not the choice at the outset? Councillor Stolte has been accountable for her actions and accepted the penalty, if imposed. In the court of public opinion, I believe she will be looked upon favourably.

As someone who tries to be engaged on city matters, I find the number of times Closed Sessions are called to be rather frustrating. Ironically, there's an item on today's agenda that I've been waiting a long time to learn more about: File L-12-22. Unfortunately, that's a confidential matter as well.

Sincerely,

Leslie Barbetta
Ward 4