

**Public Meeting Regarding our City of Burlington's Integrity Commissioner's Report
about our Ward 4 Councillor**

April 19, 2022

Request for Information Regarding File CL-16-22

This past weekend our Ward 4 family of three voting adults and our older son and future daughter in law who reside nearby made time for a lengthy conversation about recent newspaper articles highlighting serious conflicts between 3 of our City's Councillors. As a family who expects transparency in political processes, we felt a range of emotions including disappointment and disillusionment. We are sad that 3 of our City's Councillors would have the potential of being negatively impacted by this investigation. We are perplexed that a report from our City's Integrity Commissioner is at a sanction phase and hence we request that the following be made public and that we receive each by email:

- The "City's Code of Good Governance" for City Councillors and our Mayor
- The Due Process guidelines of reporting concerns for the City of Burlington Councillors and our Mayor
- When there are Councillor to Councillor concerns or when as in this case several Councillors present concerns regarding another Councillor how are the Councillors required to inform each other of the concerns? Who do they report the concern to as Step 1, Step 2, etc.
- When a Councillor receives a first verbal warning of concern is it from Councillor to Councillor and then documented in writing to be included in a Human Resources file?
- Who is the keeper of the concerns' files?
- The City's Integrity Commissioner's full report regarding our Ward 4 Councillor

On behalf of my family, thank you for making this meeting open to the public. I/We believe that to fully understand what has occurred we need to have the context and data as requested herein.

Respectfully,

Ron Fleming, Jake Fleming and Mary Alice St. James

From: [Meed Ward, Marianne](#)
To: [Mailbox, Office of the Mayor; Stolte, Shawna;](#) [REDACTED] [Mailbox,](#)
[Clerks; LIST - Office of Ward 4](#)
Subject: Re: Letter for our Burlington Public Record RE. CL-16-22
Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 7:26:08 AM

Mary Alice,
Thank you for reaching out about this very important matter.

In the interest of you having the information you need before our council meeting I'm providing links to all of the documents you've requested. I'll save my comments regarding the matter itself to council, but would be available to discuss further at that time.

Elected Councillors are not considered employees in the same sense as other city staff. Our conduct is governed by the Code of Good Governance, and the process for filing is detailed there. The Code is one of the few tools the public, staff or fellow members of council have to hold each other accountable, especially between elections. Another tool is the Closed Meeting Investigator.

The Code is a public document, as is the Integrity Commissioner process, and the report of the findings. Closed Meeting Investigation reports are also public. Links to the city webpage for both are below.

I expect some of your other questions may be answered in comments from council members at today's council meeting. That begins at 1pm, although this item is later in the agenda and likely won't be heard till later afternoon.

I trust this is helpful. I would be pleased to answer any additional questions you may have after the council meeting today.

Sincerely,
Marianne

Links:

Agenda for today's council meeting, see Item 14.4.

<https://burlingtonpublishing.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=00f88386-dc8b-44ba-9372-b6aac1f541df&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=102&Tab=attachments>

All documents are publicly posted there but shared here as well for your convenience:

1. [CL-16-22 Report from the Integrity Commissioner - Code of Conduct Complaint.pdf](#)
2. [CL-16-22 Appendix A - Code of Good Governance.pdf](#)
3. [CL-16-22 AppendixB - Recommendation Report Burlington Stolte.pdf](#)

Integrity Commissioner Process

<https://www.burlington.ca/en/your-city/integrity-commissioner.asp>

Closed Meeting Investigation

<https://www.burlington.ca/en/your-city/closed-meeting-investigations.asp>

From: Mary-Alice St. James [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 6:37 AM

To: Mailbox, Clerks <Clerks@burlington.ca>; Mailbox, Office of the Mayor <mayor@burlington.ca>; Stolte, Shawna <Shawna.Stolte@burlington.ca>

Cc: LIST - Office of Ward 4 <ward4@burlington.ca>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Letter for our Burlington Public Record RE. CL-16-22

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please note that there was little time to respond to such an important process. Our family has attached a letter for the public file that I will present as a delegation.

Mary Alice St. James (Ron Fleming and Jake Fleming)

[REDACTED]