

April 24, 2026

Via Email

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Re: Strengthening Provincial Sanctions for Coercive or Politically Motivated Misuse of Office by Municipal Councillors

Please be advised that at its meeting held on April 20, 2026, the Council of the Town of Whitby adopted the following as Resolution # 92-26:

Whereas municipal councillors in Ontario hold statutory authority that can significantly influence matters such as land use planning, development approvals, and other decisions that directly affect individual property rights;

Whereas the concentration of such authority creates the *potential* for misuse, including situations in which councillors could attempt to leverage their influence over planning or regulatory processes to obtain political advantage or other personal benefit;

Whereas the Municipal Act, 2001 and municipal Codes of Conduct establish ethical expectations for members of council, but the current enforcement framework provides only limited sanctions—primarily reprimands, apologies, or temporary suspension of remuneration—through Integrity Commissioner processes;

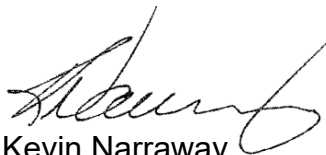
Whereas the existing framework does not provide adequate remedies in circumstances where conduct may involve coercion, intimidation, or attempts to secure political benefit through the misuse of office, nor does it provide mechanisms for disqualification from office in cases of serious misconduct; and,

Whereas maintaining public trust in municipal governance requires that elected officials be held to clear and enforceable standards, particularly in situations where their statutory authority over planning and property matters could be used, or perceived to be used, inappropriately;

Therefore be it resolved:

1. That Council formally request that the Province of Ontario undertake amendments to the Municipal Act, 2001 and related statutes to strengthen the accountability framework for municipal elected officials, including:
 - The creation of enhanced sanctions for serious ethical breaches involving coercion, intimidation, or the misuse of office for political or personal advantage;
 - The establishment of a provincial investigative and adjudicative mechanism, independent of local Integrity Commissioners, to address allegations of conduct that may constitute abuse of power;
 - The authority for such a mechanism to impose stronger penalties, including temporary or permanent disqualification from holding municipal office, where findings of serious misconduct are made; and,
 - Clear statutory guidance on the interaction between municipal Codes of Conduct, Integrity Commissioner processes, and criminal law, ensuring that municipalities and the public understand the appropriate pathways for addressing conduct that may cross legal thresholds.
2. That this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all municipalities within the Greater Toronto Area.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Town Clerk at 905.430.4300.



Kevin Narraway
Sr. Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk
clerk@whitby.ca

Copy: C. Harris, Director of Legislative Services/Town Clerk - clerk@whitby.ca

Robin Jones, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) -
amopresident@amo.on.ca
Town of Ajax – clerks@ajax.ca
Town of Aurora – clerks@aurora.ca

City of Brampton – cityclerksoffice@brampton.ca
Township of Brock – clerks@brock.ca
City of Burlington – clerks@burlington.ca
Town of Caledon – kevin.klingenberg@caledon.ca
Municipality of Clarington – clerks@clarington.ca
Town of East Gwillimbury – clerks@eastgwillimbury.ca
Town of Georgina – clerks@georgina.ca
Town of Halton Hills – clerks@haltonhills.ca
Township of King – clerks@king.ca
City of Markham – clerkspublic@markham.ca
Town of Milton – greta.susa@milton.ca
City of Mississauga – city.clerk@mississauga.ca
Town of Newmarket – clerks@newmarket.ca
Town of Oakville – townclerk@oakville.ca
City of Oshawa – clerks@oshawa.ca
City of Pickering – clerks@pickering.ca
City of Richmond Hill – clerks@richmondhill.ca
Township of Scugog – clerks@scugog.ca
Township of Uxbridge – clerks@uxbridge.ca
City of Vaughan – clerks@vaughan.ca
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville – clerks@townofws.ca
Regional Municipality of Durham – clerks@durham.ca
Regional Municipality of Halton – clerks@halton.ca
Regional Municipality of Peel – regionalclerk@peelregion.ca
Regional Municipality of York – regional.clerk@york.ca
City of Toronto – clerk@toronto.ca