

Feedback from Councillors

Events or Occasions Turned Down

- Edmonton Football Team games
- Theatre and arts events
- Oilers games (in suite)
- Finance Minister speaking engagement (post-provincial budget)
- Fringe Festival
- City-sponsored event featuring Bill Nye
- Lunch event at which a City branch had bought a table
- Fundraisers

Comments on the Gifts and Benefits Section (paraphrased)

- Declined attending an Oilers Game and missed an opportunity to interact with stakeholders.
- The event isn't always the event, but an opportunity to meet and exchange views.
- A City entity offered the tickets. It doesn't make sense that the Councillor could not support the City entity in their outreach efforts.
- Need clarification on whether the City can be a giftor.
- The technicality of who is extending the invitation is a problem.
- Unclear whether you can accept an invitation to an event from the title sponsor of that event.
- Would have liked to go to an opera fundraiser to show support for the organization (more duty than pleasure) but could not accept because of who invited the Councillor.
- Was able to attend a breakfast meeting with someone to whom the Councillor had declined an earlier invitation to a fundraiser which they

could not accept. If the point of this part of the Code was to avoid lobbying, this is not a protection.

- A stakeholder thought the Councillor was evading a meeting with them because the Councillor had to decline.
- What has personal entertainment value versus what has political value is different for every Councillor (not a helpful test).
- Edmonton Football Team tickets offered by a community-owned team in a community-owned venue versus folk music festival tickets offered by a community festival in a community-owned venue: both should be allowed or neither.
- Used to attend arts events to show support but now do not because of the Code.
- The bar should be set high enough to remove the appearance of politicians receiving freebies and favours or being influenced by them.