

Bylaw 19578

Council Code of Conduct Bylaw - Amendments to Bylaw 18483

Purpose

To amend Bylaw 18483, Council Code of Conduct Bylaw, by deleting Schedule A, Part L, section 1(g)(ii).

Readings

Bylaw 19578 is ready for three readings.

A majority vote of City Council on all three readings is required for passage.

If Council wishes to give three readings during a single meeting, then prior to moving third reading, Council must unanimously agree “That Bylaw 19578 be considered for third reading.”

Position of Administration

Administration supports this Bylaw.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the November 16, 2020, City Council meeting, the following motion was passed:

That Administration return to City Council with an amendment to Bylaw 18483, Council Code of Conduct, to delete section 1(g)(ii) of Part L: Gifts and Benefits.

Report Summary

This report provides for an amendment to the Council Code of Conduct to delete Schedule A, Part L (Gifts and Benefits), section 1(g)(ii). The amendment is in keeping with the advice of the Integrity Commissioner and Ethics Advisor, as set out in the Integrity Commissioner’s 2020 annual report to City Council.

Report

Further to direction given at the February 19/21, 2020, City Council meeting, Administration solicited feedback from members of Council with respect to events or occasions they were unable to or uncomfortable attending because of the Council

Code of Conduct (“the Code”). Several members of Council surveyed questioned the purpose of 1(g) of Part L of the Code, which reads:

1. No Councillor will accept a gift, unless it is:

g) admission to, and food and beverages consumed at, community events and widely attended events such as conventions, conferences, sporting and arts events, banquets, or training and education programs, provided that:

ii) admission is offered by the entity, or a representative or member of the entity, responsible for organizing or presenting the event;

As had been directed by City Council, the results of this engagement were then shared with the Integrity Commissioner and the Ethics Advisor to provide recommendations for potential amendments to improve the Gifts and Benefits section of the Code.

At the October 19, 2020, City Council meeting, the Integrity Commissioner presented her 2020 annual report (“the annual report”) to City Council. In the views of both the Integrity Commissioner and the Ethics Advisor, as expressed in the annual report, an amendment to the Code to delete section 1(g)(ii) of Part L: Gifts and Benefits of the Code would be reasonable and equitable.

At the November 3, 2020, Council Services Committee, the feedback from members of Council was presented to Council Services Committee, along with the recommendations of the Integrity Commissioner and Ethics Advisor on the Gifts and Benefits section of the Code. Council Services Committee recommended to City Council that the Code be amended to reflect the views of the Integrity Office by deleting Schedule A, Part L, section 1(g)(ii).

Public Engagement

No public engagement was conducted for this report.

Attachments

1. Bylaw 19578