

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Integrity Commissioner Report

From: Sienna DiGiuseppe

Sent: September 29, 2020 11:34 AM

To: Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>

Cc: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Integrity Commissioner Report

Dear Councillor Farr,

I am writing to seek further clarification on your position on the Integrity Commissioner's ruling on the complaint that council filed against Cameron Kroetsch in his capacity as the chair of the city's LGBTQ Advisory Committee.

I was shocked to learn that council had voted to file a complaint such as this against a citizen volunteer and community leader who not only represents a marginalized community, but a community that has struggled to be heard and respected in this city in recent years. I was further disappointed to learn that there was not a public record of the vote to file the complaint, and so I am reaching out to ask that you disclose how you voted and your reasoning.

Additionally, I read the following quote you provided in [the Spectator](#):

Coun. Jason Farr said he didn't know what position he'd take on the recommendations but argued council's role in the commissioner's findings about Kroetsch was "hands-off."
"If he's got a beef with those findings, his beef is with the integrity commissioner."

You are well aware of the current climate surrounding the way that council interacts with the public. Given the growing distrust and the feeling that many members of council view any dissenting opinion as an attack, and given that the complaint was submitted by council, I would suggest that it is well within the public's interest to hear more from council regarding their justification for this unprecedented use of the Office of the Integrity Commissioner to investigate a volunteer.

I respect that there will be issues where councillors have differing opinions from members of the public, but it is incredibly frustrating and disheartening to see council consistently treat engaged citizens as enemies. That council would choose to initiate this process behind closed doors is unacceptable and only further contributes to the toxic relationship being fostered in our community. This action serves to further deter citizens from participating in our municipal political process and erodes the strength of our engaged community.

I would strongly urge you to vote against accepting the findings and/or implementing the recommendations of this report tomorrow.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response.

Regards,
Sienna DiGiuseppe
Ward 2 Resident